



# **BULLETIN 17**

## **PROTECTION CRISIS IN NORTHERN CENTRAL AMERICA, MEXICO AND PANAMA**

**Key data from October to December 2021**

---

This seventeenth bulletin provides an update on the protection crisis in Northern Central America, Mexico and Panama, consolidated through the monitoring of indicators of criminal violence, barriers to access to rights, migration policies and protection needs. Various governmental, non-governmental and media sources of information were consulted, and this is the outlook for the fourth quarter of 2021.<sup>1</sup>

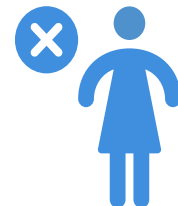


## CRIMINAL VIOLENCE



**936**  
Homicides

Recorded by the National Civil Police from January 1 to November 2, 2021, representing a **decrease of 56.3% compared to the same period in 2020.**<sup>1</sup>



**30**  
Feminicides

They were registered by the National Civil Police from January 1 to November 2, 2021, representing a **decrease of 56.3% compared to the same period in 2020.**



**448**  
Disappearances

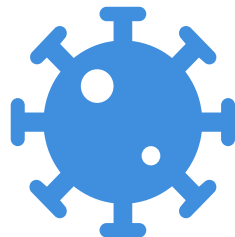
From November 1 to November 30, 2021.<sup>2</sup>  
Data from the Attorney General's Office of El Salvador (FGR), obtained through the Law of Access to Public Information.



**14**  
Active cases of disappearances of children and adolescents

Maintains the "Missing Angel" Alert between October 3 and December 30, 2021.<sup>3</sup>

## PROTECTION NEEDS



**4,1 M**

Individuals received the full schedule of Covid-19 vaccination

**69.1% of the total population.**

69.1% had received a dose of vaccine (4,483,699 million) against Covid-19.<sup>4</sup>



**6,037**

Salvadoran asylum seekers applied for asylum in Mexico in 2021.<sup>5</sup>



Attacks on journalists and human rights defenders.

According to the Association of Journalists of El Salvador, until November 2021 **the cases reported by women journalists who have suffered some kind of aggression increased by 165% compared to the same period in 2020 (69 Vs 26).**

## BALANCE SHEET OF MIGRATION POLICIES



**2,498**  
Deported people

Representing a **cumulative figure of 7,124 people** deported from January to November. The total number of people deported to the eleven months of 2021 reflects a **reduction of 30.05% compared to the same period of the previous year.**<sup>6</sup>

**54,4%** **46,1%**  
United States Mexico

**66,5%** **33,5%**  
Men Women

**61%** **39%**  
Boys Girls

(From the total number of minors)

As indicated in previous bulletins, deportees up to November 2021 continue to be concentrated in the departments of **San Salvador, San Miguel and Usulután.**

# El Salvador

An update on the protection crisis

## NATIONAL ANALYSIS

### CRIMINAL VIOLENCE

Official statistics indicate that homicide rates have been reduced. However, in the last quarter of 2021 there have been general incidents of violence, mainly in November. Wednesday 10 was the most violent day of the year with 22 homicides. In addition, between Tuesday 9 and Thursday 11, 44 homicides were recorded. 7 In just three days almost all the homicides registered in November 2021 were concentrated.<sup>8</sup> However, there is not enough evidence to confirm the trend until the end of December, as the approval of the Inter-institutional Technical Table where the Police, Forensic Medicine and the Attorney General's Office work together has not yet been published. However, in the last three years there have been 4,879 homicides, a much lower figure than the 15,857 homicides consolidated between 2014 and 2016.<sup>9</sup> At the institutional level, the reduction in homicides has been based on militarization through the so-called Plan Control Territorial (PCT), which prioritizes the municipalities with the highest homicide rates: Mejicanos, Apopa, Soyapango, Ilopango, San Martín, Santa Tecla, Colón, San Marcos, Ciudad Delgado, San Miguel and Santa Ana. It should be noted that the homicides registered between Tuesday, November 9 and 11 occurred in the same municipalities prioritized by the PCT.

On the other hand, homicides are not the only manifestation of generalized violence. The prevalence of disappearances continues to be alarming. As of November 30, 2021, the National Civil Police of El Salvador stated that it was investigating 550 cases of missing persons. <sup>10</sup> In addition, on October 20, 2021 the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights held a hearing between government sectors and human rights organizations that support relatives of the disappeared. In this hearing it became evident that from January 1 to October 13, 1,116 complaints were filed in cases of missing persons. The most alarming thing is that, in many of the cases, the number of missing persons is more than one person, therefore, out of the 1,116 complaints, 1,192 missing persons were reported; that is, 76 persons more than the total number of reported cases. Of the total number of reported cases, they indicated that half of these persons were found, 3.9% were found lifeless and the rest are still missing. <sup>11</sup>

The disappearance of persons has been a recurrent and increasing phenomenon throughout the past year. Addressing the existing impunity and strengthening the processes of investigation of cases continues to be a challenge that must be urgently addressed in Salvadoran society.

### PROTECTION NEEDS

#### Covid-19

At the end of 2021, the country had 121,945 confirmed cases of Covid-19. The rate of confirmed cases was 7.83 per 100,000 inhabitants and there was evidence of 3,824 deaths due to coronavirus. On the other hand, 4,483,699 first doses had been administered and 4,156,783 people had received the complete vaccination schedule. <sup>12</sup> However, the challenge is the total health coverage of the population.

#### Food safety

According to data from the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification Analysis, presented in September 2021, which analyzes the situation of the 6.3 million people residing in the 14 departments, for the period from September 2021 to February 2022, it is estimated that 594,000 will be in a condition of acute food insecurity crisis or emergency. These figures represent 10% of the population analyzed. In addition, based on current data, the projections state that, prior to the seasonal hunger period, from March to May 2022, more than 900,000 people would be in conditions of acute food insecurity crisis or emergency.<sup>13</sup>

#### Attacks on journalists and human rights defenders:

The Monitoring Center of the Association of Journalists of El Salvador has documented a 165% increase in cases of violence against women journalists in 2021 compared to 2020. This increase represents a double violation and stigmatization, which has gender violence as a vehicle, and implies that the attacks are for being journalists and for being women. Of the total number of attacks, one third of the 209 complaints accumulated from January to November 2021 refer to the restriction of journalistic practice (30), stigmatizing statements (8), blocking access to public information (7), intimidation (7), digital harassment (6) and unjustified dismissals (4). Other complaints include sexual harassment, physical aggression, digital attack and censorship. <sup>14</sup> This situation represents a challenge for Salvadoran society because the exercise of democracy is based on freedom of expression and spaces free of gender violence.

#### Political panorama:

The year 2021 was marked by political controversies, especially since May 1, with the start of the new legislature of the Legislative Assembly. Likewise, in 2021, the challenge of reducing the virulence of organized crime and the violent acts they are involved in will persist. On the other hand, there have been tensions in international relations during the last quarter, which impacted local politics. The United States sanctioned two public officials in charge of security: the reason for the accusation was corruption and alleged negotiations with organized crime. <sup>15</sup> In addition, there were disagreements between the Government of El Salvador and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), as the approval of financing for economic recovery and overcoming the pandemic was pending. By mid-year, negotiations between the government and the IMF were almost concluded. However, by the end of 2021 the process was stalled. The cause was the refusal of the IMF's requirement that the work report of the International Commission Against Impunity of the Organization of American States be made public.<sup>16</sup>

Finally, the application of Bitcoin as legal tender in the country is still ongoing, which generated discontent and social mobilization between September and December. Civil society sectors point out the contradiction that there is the option of having cryptocurrencies in El Salvador, and yet there are populations such as those of Berlín, in Usulután, where many families receive drinking water approximately once a month. <sup>17</sup> Between September 7 and December 10, four massive mobilizations took place, led by various sectors of civil society critical of the government's administration.



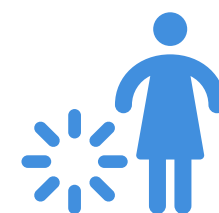
## CRIMINAL VIOLENCE

**559**  
Homicides



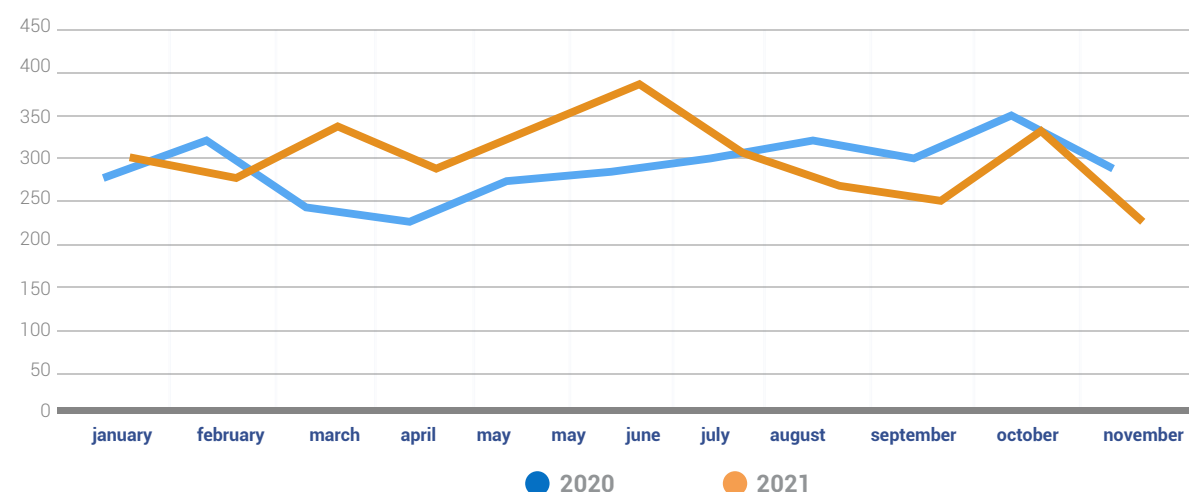
registered by the National Police Security Secretariat between October and November 2021, amounting to a **cumulative total of 3,305 homicides** between January and November.<sup>18</sup>

**67**  
Femicides



registered between October and November 2021, assuming a **cumulative total of 314 femicides** between January and November.<sup>19</sup>

Comparison: number of homicides from January to November 2020 vs. January to November 2021



Graph prepared by the authors based on statistics published by the Police Statistics Department of the National Police of Honduras.

Comparison: number of femicides from January to November 2020 vs. January to November 2021

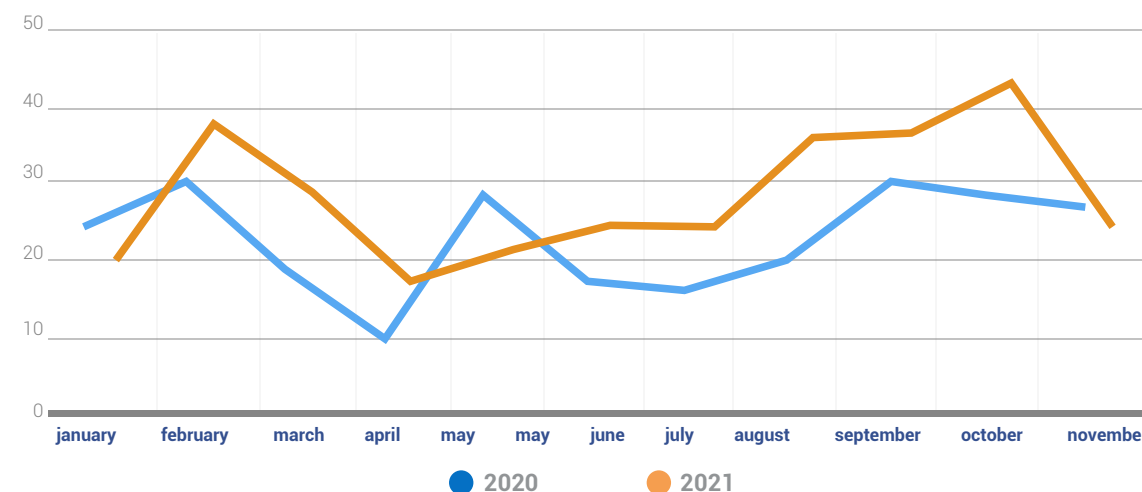


Chart based on official statistics from the Women's Rights Center.

## BALANCE SHEET OF MIGRATION POLICIES



**46,640**  
Honduran women  
deported<sup>22</sup>

from January to November 2021.

**42,6%** ↑  
more than the  
same period of  
the previous year

## PROTECTION NEEDS



**43,4%**  
of the population received the full  
schedule of Covid-19 vaccine.

49.6% had received one dose of the vaccine (4,915,362 million) and 3.8% had received the third dose (377,472).<sup>20</sup>



**36,361**  
Honduran people requested  
refuge in Mexico

from January to December 2021, an alarming and exponentially increasing figure compared to 2020 (15,389 asylum applications).<sup>21</sup>

In both years, Honduras has been the country with the highest number of asylum applications until the third quarter of 2021, only surpassed in the last quarter of 2021 by persons in a situation of human mobility of Haitian nationality.

13.2%  
United States

86.5%  
Mexico

87% 13%  
Men Women

62% 37%  
Boys Girls  
(of total number of minors)



# Honduras

An update on the protection crisis

## NATIONAL ANALYSIS

### CRIMINAL VIOLENCE

The statistical trends of homicidal violence in the country show significant increases in relation to 2020. Between October and November 2021, 67 homicides were registered, representing an increase of 14.93% in relation to October and November 2020, when 57 homicides were reported (10 more cases).

As in El Salvador, in the last four months Honduras had one day considered the most violent of the year. On December 14, 33 homicides were reported. 23 However, December was not the most violent month. In June, 382 homicides were registered, being the month with the highest number of cases reported. 24 Homicidal violence is one of the most persistent problems at the end of 2021.

On the other hand, based on the data published up to November, there were also cases of aggression against women. It should be noted that femicide was the violent act with the highest number of cases, accumulating 314 deaths. These figures show an increase of 19.43% compared to the same period in 2020 (when 253 were registered up to November), followed by rape (124 cases), injuries (50 cases) and 20 attempted homicides. 25 The Center for Women's Studies points out that 74.8% of femicides in Honduras occur at the hands of organized crime and most of these cases remain unpunished. 26 The exercise of women's rights is vital for democratic development and the strengthening of the rule of law. Strengthening investigation mechanisms to address impunity for gender-based violence is one of the great challenges facing the country.

### PROTECTION NEEDS

#### Covid-19

Vaccine access in the last quarter of 2021 has become more democratized relative to the first quarters of 2021. However, as noted in the previous bulletin, access to pediatric vaccines for children aged 12-15 years remains a challenge for health coverage.27

According to the National Institute of Statistics in the demographic analysis of projections (2014-2030)28 it is estimated that approximately 2,920,270 children and adolescents are pending to receive the complete vaccination schedule. 29 This becomes a significant need for protection, since they represent a population profile in a vulnerable condition. However, the Ministry of Health reported that by the end of January 2022, the country would receive a batch of two million vaccines for the coverage of this population sector. This projection emphasized the need to immunize one million people between 5 and 11 years of age. The Ministry of Health plans to vaccinate 1,345,000 children.30

On the other hand, it should be emphasized - as noted in the previous bulletin - that access to vaccines for the population in conditions of human mobility is not guaranteed. However, the dynamics have changed for the fourth quarter of the year. Requests for access to the vaccine, this time, are not only from Honduran populations in transit, but also from Nicaraguan nationals. In the last quarter of 2021, there were mixed flows of Nicaraguan nationals who received the vaccination in health centers. In addition, the Ministry of Health reported that 103,611 persons of Nicaraguan nationality were vaccinated against Covid-19 with the first dose from Moderna and Pfizer pharmaceuticals at border points in the departments of Choluteca and El Paraíso. This population came from the departments of León, Masaya, Chinandega, Matagalpa, Estelí, Granada and Managua.31

One of the reasons reported by Nicaraguan nationals interviewed for deciding to be vaccinated in Honduras has been distrust in the vaccines administered in Nicaragua branded Sputnik Light, Soberana 1, Soberana 2 and Abdala. It should be recalled that these vaccines have not been approved by the World Health Organization and, therefore, even if a dose of these vaccines is received, it does not allow border crossing to the United States. 32 One of the obstacles for this population to get vaccinated was the suspension of the vaccination days from November 24 to December 3 due to the general elections in Honduras on November 28.33

#### *Attacks on journalists and human rights defenders:*

In total numbers, Honduras is the country with the third highest number of journalists murdered in Latin America, behind only Mexico and Brazil. 20 journalists were murdered in the country from 2010 to October 2021.34 Organizations such as the National Commissioner for Human Rights, Reporters Without Borders and the Foundation for Press Freedom argue that 92% of the 20 journalist murders remain unpunished. Approximately 50 journalists have been forced to flee due to persecution.35

On the other hand, Honduras registers alarming numbers of murders against LGBTIQ+ rights defenders. Vicky Hernández was murdered in 2009 and from that year until December 2021, 399 murders of diverse people were reported. 36 Only in the last four years there were 119 crimes. In addition, until November 2021 only 29 cases of hate crimes have been prosecuted and at the end of last year up to 91% of the cases remained unpunished.37

Likewise, in December 2021, an attack on the daughter of a human rights defender was reported. In this regard, the General Coordinator of the Association for a More Participatory Citizenship (ACI-PARTICIPA), a member organization of the SOS-Torture Network of the World Organization Against Torture (OMCT), called for the protection and urgent follow-up of the case.38



## An update on the protection crisis

Another significant case is the impeachment of the seven environmental defenders from the Guapinol community. Two years ago (September 1, 2019), the defenders were placed in preventive detention due to their opposition to the establishment of an iron oxide mine within a protected national park in the municipality of Tocoa, department of Colón. The defenders live in the community of Guapinol, near the Guapinol River, which has been contaminated by mining activities, and belong to the Municipal Committee for the Defense of Common and Public Goods. 39

The trial began on December 1, 2021 and there has still been no ruling in favor of the defenders, despite the fact that the international community and human rights experts from the United Nations are urging the Honduran State to release them. 40 Along these same lines, the Observatory for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders was organized by national and international organizations (the Center for Justice and International Law, the Committee for Freedom of Expression, the International Human Rights Law Clinic, the University of Virginia School of Law, USA, the Reflection, Research and Communication Team, Front Line Defenders, the International Federation for Human Rights and the World Organization Against Torture in the framework of the), to provide follow-up and accompaniment to the judicialization process. 41

In short, in the year 2021, challenges persist in terms of human rights and the consolidation of the rule of law in Honduras.

### ***Political panorama:***

Between October 25 and November 25, within the framework of the general elections held on November 28, 14 violent acts were reported, which had as victims mayors, candidates for mayors, sympathizers and militants of political parties. The data were collected by the Observatory of Violence of the National Autonomous University of Honduras and indicate that there were 64 cases of violence up to November: 30 homicides, 18 coercion, 6 threats, 12 attacks, one coercion and one kidnapping for political reasons. Segregated by sex, 49 were men and 14 were women. 42 In another report carried out by the Association for a More Just Society, between January and October 2021, more than 80 electoral conflicts were reported. The document mentions as causes of the conflicts the clash of ideological and media narratives, the inequality and injustice gaps and the internal conflicts of the electoral institutionality. 43

In response to these manifestations of pre-electoral violence, a peace agreement and pronouncement emerged from multiple sectors of civil society, private enterprise, religious institutions and academic centers. The most significant has been the peace agreement between the National Party of Honduras and the Liberty and Refoundation Party before the National Electoral Council. The Electoral Observation Mission of the Organization of American States also joined the sectors that promulgated the peace agreement. 44

As previously mentioned, on Sunday, November 28, 2021, the popular election processes took place in Honduras. The expectations of the electoral context maintained the uncertainty of potential electoral violence and distrust in the institutionality. However, the elections took place in a transparent and peaceful manner. 45 The results were unprecedented in the political history of Honduras: the first is the fact that a woman was elected president, the second is that she is of progressive ideology and the third is the high percentage of participation. The number of eligible voters was 5,182,425 people. The total percentage of electoral records processed and officially published 100% by the National Electoral Council was 18.2%. The total turnout was 68.58% with 3,580,527 votes processed<sup>46</sup>. It should be emphasized that this is an unprecedented percentage of participation in the political history of the country.

Xiomara Castro Sarmiento will take office on January 27, 2022. Precisely one of the highlights of the government's plan, which it intends to develop in the first year, is the migration policy. It proposes a humanist migration policy: as a country of origin, transit and destination of migrant population, it promotes an approach to migration as a right. It also calls for a reduction in forced displacement and the development of a massive job creation program to support small and medium-sized enterprises. 47





## VIOLENCIA CRIMINAL



**16**  
Homicides

Per 100,000 inhabitants as of August 2021, presented an **increase of 1%** compared to the November 2020 rate.<sup>48</sup>



**585**  
Feminicides

Number of criminal cases from January to November 2021 increased by 19% compared to the same period last year.<sup>49</sup>



**5,989**  
Alba-Keneth Alerts activated

Of which 40% were deactivated. Number of Alba-Keneth Alerts activated and deactivated, January to December 2021.<sup>50</sup>



**1,601**  
Isabel-Claudina Alerts activated

A 30% increase over the same period of the previous year Isabel-Claudina alerts activated, January to October 2021.

**7,997**

Acknowledgments physicians for sexual offenses

The National Institute of Forensic Sciences carried out from January to December 2021, 91% of which were performed on women and girls.<sup>51</sup>

## PROTECTION NEEDS



**1,004**  
Asylum applications

presented from January to November 2021 represented an increase of 128% compared to the previous year.<sup>52</sup>

**796**  
people in need of protection

**4,746**  
people at risk of scrolling in areas with high migration rates.<sup>53</sup>

## BALANCE SHEET OF MIGRATION POLICIES



**58,462**  
People were returnees<sup>54</sup>

from January to November 2021

**39%**

More than the same period in 2020

**25.7%**  
United States

**74.3%**  
Mexico

**78.5%**  
Men

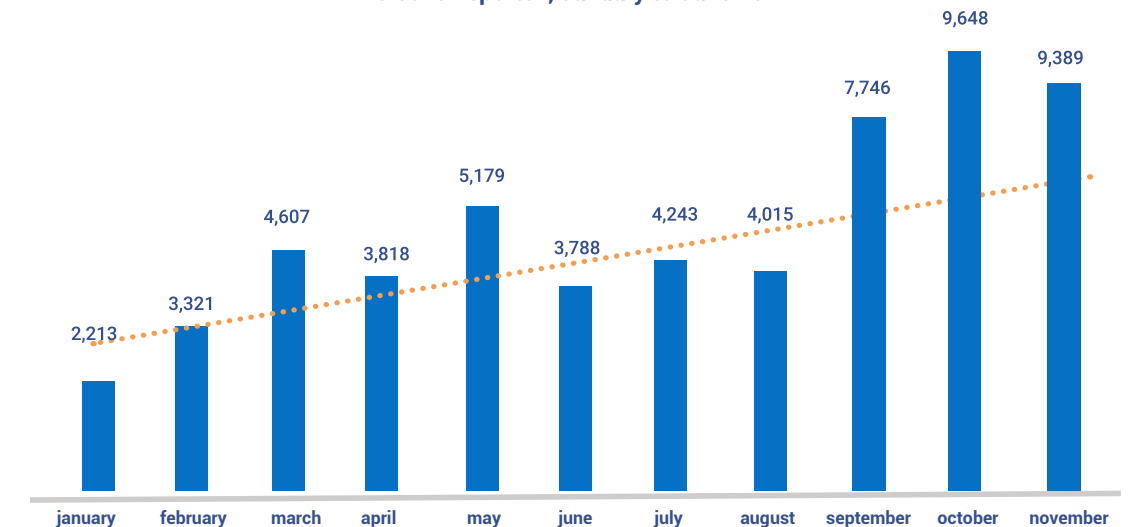
**21.5%**  
Women

**65.4%**  
Boys

**34.6%**  
Girls

(of total number of minors)

Persons reported, January to June 2021



Source: based on Human Mobility Information Management Initiative in the Northern Triangle, November 2021.



# Guatemala

An update on the protection crisis

## NATIONAL ANALYSIS

### CRIMINAL VIOLENCE

During 2021, the incidence of crime (homicides, injuries, extortion, robbery, theft, rape and domestic violence), rose to similar figures as before the Covid-19 pandemic. In 2019, 20,037 criminal acts were reported from January to August, and in 2021, 19,519 criminal acts were reported in this same period. 55

From January to November, the National Institute of Forensic Sciences reported 3,715 homicides (necropsies for violent deaths associated with criminal acts). The departments with the highest number of homicides reported were Guatemala, Escuintla and Chiquimula, 84% of the cases were men and 16% were women. For men, the main causes of death were projectile wounds, stab wounds and asphyxia by suspension, and for women, the main causes of death were projectile wounds, asphyxia by suspension and stab wounds. 56 On the other hand, the Observatorio de Derechos Humanos y Violencias por Orientación Sexual e Identidad de Género documented from January to November 30 violent murders against people of the LGBTIQ+ community. 57

In relation to violence against women, the Public Ministry reported 61,255 victims and 14,891 victims of sexual violence (sexual violence, assaults and other sexual crimes) as of December 19. An average of 175 missing women alerts were activated per month and 41% of the women reported missing were between the ages of 21 and 30. 58

Reports of injuries compatible with child abuse during 2021 totaled 1,349 cases, 40% were boys and 60% were girls. It is important to highlight that girls, upon entering the adolescent stage, are more prone to suffer injuries due to abuse, since 69% of the cases occurred in adolescents (females) between 10 and 19 years of age and 31% in girls under 9 years of age. In addition, 342 children and adolescents were reported as victims of homicides caused by firearms, of which 86% were boys and 14% girls; however, the highest percentage was concentrated in adolescents (males) between 15 and 19 years of age (78%).

### PROTECTION NEEDS

#### Food safety

In Guatemala there are 4.5 million hungry people, 3.6% of whom are in a severe situation, most of them located in the municipalities of the dry corridor, the highlands and those in the areas most affected by storms Eta and Iota in the departments of Izabal and Alta Verapaz. 59 Given this situation, one out of every two children in the country suffers some degree of malnutrition. From January 1 to December 4, 51 children under 5 years of age died from acute malnutrition, an increase of 96% over the previous year. 60 Key factors

In terms of food insecurity, the Covid-19 pandemic, the rise in prices of basic grains and other foodstuffs, and the effects of climate change stand out. 61

It is important to highlight that food insecurity is a trigger for migration and displacement. According to the latest survey conducted by the World Food Program during 2021, in Northern Central America, people experiencing food insecurity are more likely to make concrete preparations to migrate (23%) than those who are not (7%). 62

#### Forced displacement and migration

The causes of forced internal displacement in Guatemala are diverse and are related to structural inequalities accentuated by the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and the recent storms that affected the country, among others. 63 The Institute for Research and Projection on Global and Territorial Dynamics (Instituto de Investigación y Proyección sobre Dinámicas Globales y Territoriales) counted, during the Covid-19 pandemic, 436 families displaced by agrarian conflicts related to mining and large-scale crops, 64 such is the case of the Maya Q'eqchi' communities of El Estor in the department of Izabal, who were victims of repression and evictions through militarization and coercive measures, transferring police forces to the municipality to favor mining extraction and monocultures. Given the evidence of human rights violations, these events have transcended internationally. 65

Internal displacement is often the prelude to migration and displacement outside the country. From October 2020 to September 2021, 283,000 Guatemalans were processed by the U.S. Border Patrol (CBP), 7% more than the previous fiscal year. 66 On the other hand, as of December 9, Mexico deported 63,287 Guatemalans by land and 8,943 by air. 67

Despite the fact that the country received more than USD 14.288 million in remittances, 68 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reduced the budget for consular attention to migrants. 69

#### Human trafficking

The estimated annual cost of irregular migration to the United States in Northern Central America is USD 2 billion, of which USD 1.7 billion is used for irregular migration with human smugglers and USD 230 million for irregular migration by own means or caravan. Specifically, it is estimated that Guatemalans have spent an annual average of USD 1.1 billion on hiring human smugglers to migrate irregularly. 70



## An update on the protection crisis

With the tightening of migration policies that seek to stop the passage of people in contexts of mobility,<sup>71</sup> in Guatemala, internal coyotaje (trafficking of people within the national territory) has become visible, despite police controls, in border areas such as Esquipulas in the department of Chiquimula, which has become one of the main crossing points for Honduran and Haitian people. Human traffickers offer to transfer people to Mexico; <sup>72</sup> however, the risks of suffering some type of violence or being abandoned along the way are high; the National Civil Police have located people in mobility contexts abandoned inside vans, hotels or on roads. <sup>73</sup>

### Political landscape

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) expressed its concern about judicial independence in Guatemala. In 2021, more than 40 unfounded criminal complaints were filed against high-risk judges, in addition, the pre-trial process was used as a criminalization strategy that undermines their immunity and seeks to issue preventive detention or force them into exile, as in the case of eight prosecutors and two magistrates. On the other hand, the Unit for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders reported 755 cases of aggressions against human rights defenders in 2021, of which 189 were against justice operators. <sup>74</sup>



## BALANCE SHEET OF MIGRATION POLICIES

### In the United States



**518,360**  
Apprehensions of  
migrants  
in the southern border with  
Mexico in the last quarter,  
25% of the annual total.



**262,743**  
expulsions for  
Title 42  
at the southern border with  
Mexico in the last quarter,  
23% of the annual total.

Title 42 removals represent  
58% of overall annual  
apprehensions.



**255,787**  
inadmissions due  
to Title 8  
on the southern border with  
Mexico in the last quarter  
28% of the annual total.

Title 8 inadmissibilities  
account for 42% of the  
overall annual apprehensions.

### In Mexico



**57,457**  
Repatriations  
of Mexican nationals  
from the United States  
during the last quarter, 25% of  
the annual total.

**21,029**  
deportations of  
foreign nationals  
in the last quarter, 18% of  
the annual total.



**89,135**  
Presentations of  
foreigners before the  
immigration authority  
in the last quarter, 29% of  
the annual total.

**41,134**  
Applications for  
Refugee Status  
in Mexico  
in the last quarter, 31% of  
the annual total.

### At NCA



**38,656**  
Returns to the NCA  
from Mexico  
and the United States  
in the last quarter, 31% of  
the annual total.



# Mexico

## Una actualización sobre la crisis de protección

### NATIONAL ANALYSIS

#### CRIMINAL VIOLENCE

Over the past three years, 132,082 people were murdered in Mexico, a monthly average of 3,669 victims. 75 According to InSight Crime, Zacatecas, Michoacán, Guanajuato, Baja California, Sonora, Chihuahua and Morelos are the most violent states in the country, with the highest rates of homicide victims and the highest absolute numbers of people killed. According to this media, the fight for territories by organized crime groups, particularly the Jalisco Cartel - New Generation (CJNG), is the main reason for these events. 76 In this context, the U.S. Department of Justice has described it as the best-armed cartel in Mexico and one of the greatest threats to the country's stability. 77

For example, Sonora, a state in northern Mexico and an obligatory stop for migrants traveling to the United States, closed 2021 with 1,765 murders and a 20 percent increase in its homicide rate, while municipalities like Cajeme and Empalme experienced increases of more than 40 percent. Behind the violence are the alleged return of an old drug trafficker, internal disputes within the Sinaloa Cartel and the offensive by the Jalisco Cartel - New Generation. 78 As if this were not enough, events such as these have resulted in a crisis of forced disappearances. In view of this situation, the Miguel Agustín Pro-Juárez Human Rights Center pointed out that, in addition to the 94,000 missing persons, there are 52,000 unidentified bodies; both facts are also an expression of the forensic crisis in the country. 79

Given this scenario, according to information from the Mexican Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights (CMDPDH), in 2021 the number of displacements of Mexican people forced to flee their communities to other parts of the country due to violence multiplied, reaching at least 44,905 victims of forced internal displacement, 500% higher than that reported for the same period in 2020, when the organization recorded 7,486 victims. According to the organization, the displacements occurred mainly in the states of Chiapas, Chihuahua, Guerrero, Michoacán, Oaxaca, Quintana Roo, Sinaloa, Tamaulipas and Sonora. 80

According to the international organization Human Rights Watch, the administration of President Andrés Manuel López Obrador continues the tendency of his predecessors to record serious human rights violations, which often go unpunished. In its 2022 world report, the organization stated that these acts, which include torture, forced disappearances, torture, forced disappearances, and other crimes, often go unpunished.

d, abuses against migrants, extrajudicial executions, gender-based violence, and attacks against journalists and human rights defenders persist; while the implementation of legal reforms approved in 2017 and 2018 have been slow and ineffective in combating torture and impunity. 81

In this regard, the report highlights that the Mexican criminal justice system is not effective in resolving cases of violent crime and human rights violations. For example, only 5.2% of crimes are solved, due, among other factors, to corruption, inadequate training and resources, and complicity of prosecutors and public defenders with criminals. 82 The report also warns about the excessive use of the Armed Forces, noting that between 2013 and 2020, the CNDH received 3,799 complaints related to military suspects.

Finally, in presenting its annual report "Discrimination and Violence against Children during the Syndemic", the Network for Children's Rights in Mexico stressed that the coronavirus pandemic deepened the inequalities and violations faced by children in Mexico, with increases in poverty and adult-centered marginalization, racism, machismo and serious lags in health care.

#### PROTECTION NEEDS

In Mexico, faced with the formation of a migrant caravan in the state of Chiapas bound for the United States at the end of October, the government announced that it would act with respect for the human rights of its members, 84 however, it also indicated that it was false that they would be allowed to enter U.S. territory, and warned those who had filed amparos not to leave because they could lose their right to refuge, explaining that the suspension, although it prevents deportation, orders people to remain where they are at the disposition of the amparo court. 85 However, at the beginning of November, agents of the National Guard and the National Migration Institute (INM) deployed an operation on the border between Oaxaca and Chiapas, forcing migrants to get out of the vehicles in which they were traveling and detaining those who were walking. 86 Subsequently, the Mexican government offered Visitor's Cards for Humanitarian Reasons (TVRH) to pregnant women, people with disabilities, minors and sick people, as well as to family members accompanying them 87, and later announced that it had delivered 800 of these to members of the caravan. 88

During the last quarter, the INM continued to detain migrants, who are usually found in precarious and overcrowded conditions in hotels, safe houses, trucks, trailers and other places where they are usually concentrated by the groups that help them cross the border and take them to cities.





## Una actualización sobre la crisis de protección

of their countries of destination. Unfortunately, at the beginning of December, the way in which migrants are transported to avoid detection by Mexican immigration authorities caused the death of 56 people when the trailer in which they were traveling overcrowded in the state of Chiapas overturned. As a result, the governments of Mexico and Central America decided to form a group to address human trafficking, and the head of Mexico's National Migration Institute was summoned to appear before the Senate. 90

Finally, in December, activists and pro-migrant organizations expressed that some of the policies imposed by former President Donald Trump and continued by the Biden Administration are causing severe harm to migrants and people in need of international protection. 91

According to the Human Rights First report, titled "A Shameful Record: The Biden Administration's Use of Trump Policies Endangers Asylum Seekers," they documented at least 8,705 reports of kidnapping, torture, rape and other violent attacks against people returned to Mexico by the United States. 92

Although the Biden administration has referred that the events in the southern border of the United States are part of a seasonal crisis,<sup>93</sup> the numbers of encounters, expulsions and deportations show a migratory crisis not only in the borders of the United States, but also in Mexico's border with Guatemala,<sup>94</sup> which, according to specialists, requires the cooperation of all the countries involved, as well as an approach focused on migrants instead of controlling flows, closing borders and national security. Pro-migrant organizations demanded that the Federal Government approve the Immigration Reform promised by the Democratic Party during the presidential race,<sup>95</sup> a request similar to that made by the Mexican Government to regularize the situation of around 11 million migrants living in this country in an irregular situation

### BALANCE OF MIGRATION POLICIES

In the last quarter of the year, the U.S. government continued with the removal of migrants under Title 42 after a judge in the District of Columbia ruled that such actions were illegal because they denied families with children the right to asylum. 97 However, according to the Biden administration, enforcement of the removals is required to prevent Covid-19 infections inside immigration detention facilities. 98 In this context, detentions at the southern border continued, especially those of Central American migrants, among them families and children under 18 years of age traveling alone or accompanied. 99

For example, at the close of fiscal year 2021, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) reported the detention of 308,931 Hondurans, 279,033 Guatemalans, and 95,930 Salvadorans; 100 in the latter case representing a five-fold increase in the number of apprehensions in the U.S., and a five-fold increase in the number of Salvadoran nationals in the U.S., of fiscal year 2021.

101 At the same time, according to IOM data, between September 19 and October 1, the U.S. government deported 6,213 Haitian migrants via 57 flights, three times as many people as in the last seven months. 102 According to media reports, the number of Haitian migrants dropped by more than 90% in October. 103

According to data from the National Migration Institute (INM), through September the Mexican government detained 151,400 migrants (35% minors, 39,076 between the ages of 12 and 17, and 13,614 between the ages of 0 and 11), of which 74,296 were deported, mostly from northern Central America. At the same time, it delivered immigration documents to 16,919 Haitian migrants, of which 72% (10,194) were processed in Chiapas, a border state adjacent to Guatemala. 104 COMAR handled 108,195 asylum applications between January and October 2021 with a positive resolution rate of 29%. That is, it granted refugee status to 7 out of 10 asylum seekers with small variations depending on the nationality of the asylum seekers, for example, while Venezuelans, Hondurans and Salvadorans are granted between 84% and 97%, Haitians are rejected at a rate of 73%. 105

In this context, MEPs sent a letter to the President of Mexico, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, to express their concern about the treatment of migrants and those in need of international protection by his administration; The Mexican government has moved from a migration policy that promised to be one of open doors and guarantees for regularization, to one of control and containment of migration through the militarization of its borders and the coordination of actions such as expulsions under Title 42 and Title 8 with its U.S. counterpart,<sup>106</sup> including the INM's order to land transportation companies to request proof of immigration status from those who wish to use its services. 107

Finally, after announcing it in November<sup>108</sup> and agreeing it with its Mexican counterpart,<sup>109</sup> at the end of the year the implementation of the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) was resumed by the U.S. government after a series of legal controversies raised by different actors on the relevance and viability of doing so or not, especially by the state administration, state governments such as that of Texas, as well as human rights organizations. According to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), from December 6 to 31, 267 persons were processed under this program, 162 of Nicaraguan nationality, 59 Venezuelan, 32 Cuban, 7 Colombian and 7 Ecuadorian. 110

In spite of this, at the end of the year the governments of the United States and Mexico reaffirmed their commitment to address the causes of migration through economic investment as a central measure to reduce migratory flows in the region, a proposal that was, in part, promoted by the Mexican government,<sup>111</sup> while the U.S. government continued to make progress towards the immigration reform it had proposed at the beginning of its term, for example, by limiting arrests of migrants in parks, schools and workplaces,<sup>112</sup> eliminating limits on the processing of asylum applications at its southern border,<sup>113</sup> and reducing approval times for work permits for spouses and children of migrants. 114





## BALANCE SHEET OF MIGRATION POLICIES

### 551 Refugee applications



of which 51 were processed in the province of Darien on the border with Colombia.

There are currently 2,573 refugees residing in Panama. In the last five years, the country has received approximately 20,881 refugees. Based on these cumulative historical figures, the main countries of origin of persons seeking international protection are Colombia, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Venezuela: Colombia, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Venezuela. 117

### 230



people housed in the stations of The National Border Service's Immigration Reception Mission (ERM) at Lajas Blancas, Canaan Membrillo and San Vicente on December 30, 2021. 116

### 100



migrants were housed in the ERM at the Planes de Gualaca

However, there are no disaggregated statistics on this population.



### 37,860



Migrants in an irregular situation in the fourth quarter of 2021.

for a total of 133,726 migrants from January to December. 115

### Countries of origin

Of this irregular migrant population, 55.4% were of Haitian nationality and 11% of this population were sons and daughters of Haitians who began their migratory route in Brazil and Chile. On the other hand, 15% of this migratory flow were Cuban nationals, followed by 3.3% of Venezuelan nationals.

### 55,4%



11% of this population were sons and daughters of Haitians who began their migratory route in Brazil and Chile.



### 15%



### 3,3%

### 60%



### 40%



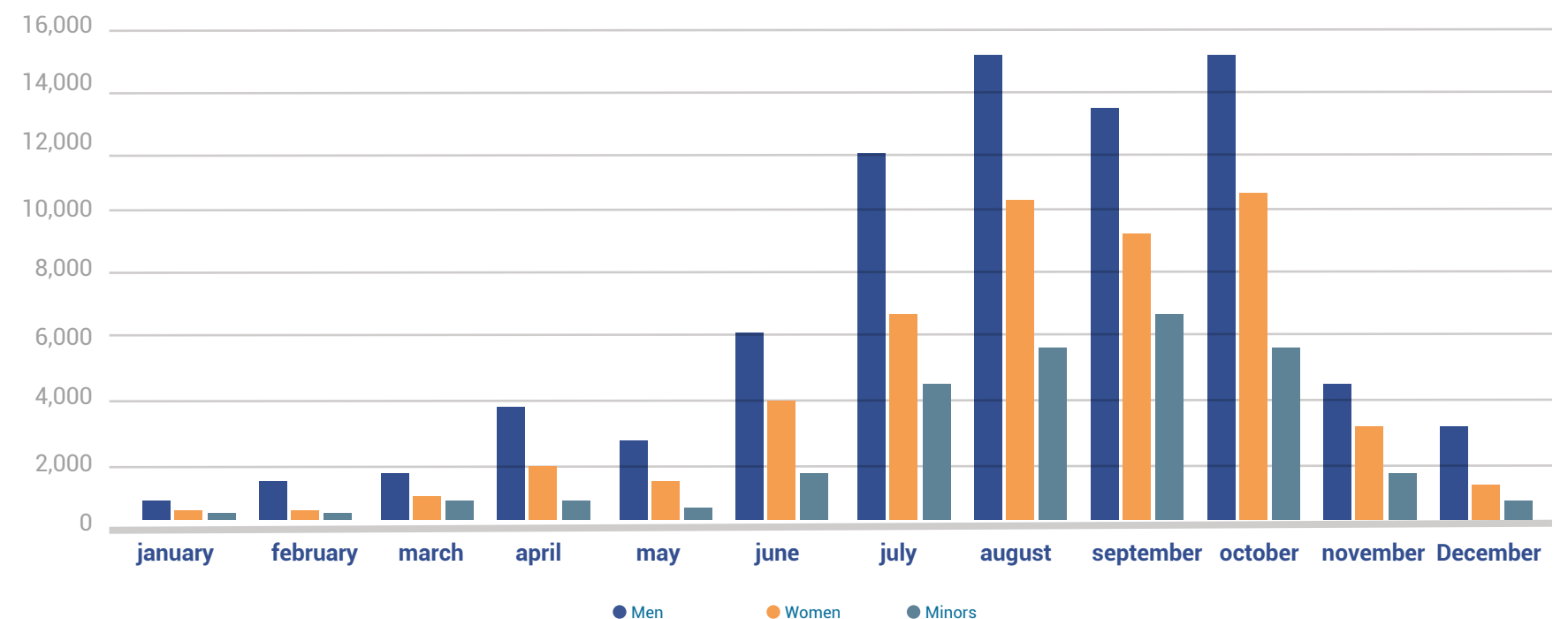
### 21%



(of total number of minors)

## Irregular border crossings into Colombia by gender and age between January and October 2021

Graph based on official statistics from the National Migration Service.





## NATIONAL ANALYSIS

### CRIMINAL VIOLENCE

#### Covid-19

As of December 25, 2021, 6,365 active cases of Covid-19 were reported, with a case fatality rate of 170.8 per 100,000 population. A total of 6,223,675 doses of vaccines have been administered, with an average complete vaccination schedule of 56 out of every 100 persons, with at least 69% of the total population having received the first dose of vaccine against Covid-19. On the other hand, up to December 28, 2021, the Ministry of Health identified 26 cases of Covid-19 of the new Omicron variant. 118

The Ministry of Health announced, through Resolution No. 0013, the modification of the complete vaccination schedule against Covid-19, which will change from two to three doses. This regulation will start to be implemented as from January 28th. In addition, since January 7, vaccination against Covid-19 for children from 5 to 11 years of age began in the network of national and regional hospitals located in the provincial capitals and in all private hospitals that support the Panavac-19 Strategy (San Fernando Hospital, Paitilla Hospital and Pacifica Salud Hospital). The first batch of pediatric vaccines will be used primarily for children with chronic diseases and disabilities. 119

On the other hand, one of the sectors most affected by the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic is that of domestic workers. Although physical, mental and social health is recognized as a right, and the right of domestic workers to a safe and healthy work environment is even contemplated in Article 13 of ILO Convention 189, the high rate of informality in this sector, the lack of access to social security and the absence of effective mechanisms for supervising the quality of employment within the home have led to a worsening of the health status of domestic workers. 120

Forty-six percent of the domestic workers affiliated with the Sindicato Gremial de Trabajadoras y Trabajadores del Servicio Doméstico y Similares (SINGRE-TRADS-CS) are foreigners, 34% from Nicaragua, 5% from Colombia, 5% from the Dominican Republic, 1% from El Salvador and 1% from Peru. Approximately 56% of the SINGRETRADS-CS affiliates surveyed reported being in fair health and 19% reported being in poorer health than in the previous year. In addition, 20% reported having a chronic illness and 22% did not know if they had a chronic illness. 121

### BALANCE SHEET OF MIGRATION POLICIES

251,613 people in a situation of human mobility crossed the Dominican border between 2010 and 2021. In 2021 alone, 53% (133,726 people) of the total population in a situation of human mobility that crossed this border in the last eleven years was concentrated in 2021. 122

Taking as a reference the cumulative figures for the year 2021, approximately 57% of the population in a situation of human mobility through the Darien was of Haitian nationality, followed by 18% of sons and daughters of Haitian parents born in Brazil and Chile. In other words, 75% of the migratory flow was of Haitian nationality or with parents from that country. Following in order of magnitude were people from Cuba (14%), Venezuela, Bangladesh and Ghana. The increase in the number of migrants of the five most represented nationalities occurred in the last four-month period, varying in each particular case. The following table highlights in red the month of the year in which the highest number of mobile people was recorded. In this regard, August and September was the period in which the highest number of Haitian migrants was identified as a direct consequence of the impact of the earthquake and the socio-political crisis in the country. 123

However, if we perform a retrospective analysis between September and December 2021, we can observe that the number of people in a situation of human mobility from Haiti decreased by 95%, 99% in the case of children of Haitians born in Chile and 95% in the case of children of Haitians born in Brazil. Only Venezuelan migrants crossed this border crossing point in greater numbers in December (542) compared to September (437), a trend that should be further investigated in 2022.

This decrease is due to several factors, including the controlled flow agreement between Panama and Colombia, which established a monthly quota of 500 migrants who can cross the borders between the two countries since last September. 124 However, neither the massive deportation of Haitian migrants from the United States and Mexico, nor this agreement has managed to limit the migratory flow to the officially agreed figures. The factors of displacement are sufficiently complex and structural to try to reduce them exclusively through administrative barriers.

The damming of up to 20,000 migrants in the Colombian municipality of Necoclí in September and October has brought with it a boom in the Pacific route for those wishing to head for Panama. The route starts in Buena-ventura, in Valle del Cauca, and continues to Jaqué and Puerto Kimba, in Darién province, for a period of approximately two weeks. However, at present, between 100-150 people are making this journey in just 2-3 days. A





## An update on the protection crisis

Although the Caribbean route is more economical, moving through the Pacific is a more direct option for people with economic resources, as it is done by sea and avoids trekking through the jungle. However, it is not free of protection risks: on December 19, a boat with migrants was shipwrecked and 8 people died. 125

According to testimony from organizations operating in the Darién border region, the magnitude of mixed movements recorded in 2021 has challenged response capacity. The upcoming opening of a regional headquarters in Meteti of the National Office for the Care of Refugees (ONPAR) is expected to help alleviate these challenges. 126

However, three needs must be addressed in order to ensure a comprehensive and regional humanitarian approach: 127

**1.** Capacity building of local protection systems through a humanitarian approach and technical capacity sharing on international protection standards. This perspective would make it possible to evolve from a border security framework to an integrated humanitarian response that meets the needs of the most vulnerable people, including the management of cases of unaccompanied minors.

**2.** Assistance to meet basic needs. People in situations of human mobility sometimes lack access to critical services such as food, health, shelter, drinking water and sanitation facilities. In this regard, it is essential to strengthen multisectoral collaboration.

**3.** Facilitate access to critical information. People in situations of human mobility have reported experiencing obstacles in accessing accurate and reliable information at key decision-making moments, both in their places of origin and along the migratory route. There is a need to ensure access to accurate sources of information on issues such as protection risks or available services, as well as connectivity alternatives (including Internet and telephone services).

Currently, no organization provides information services to this group. It should be noted that the lack of access to official information services leads people in a situation of human mobility to rely on third parties who are often unreliable (e.g. human traffickers), increasing the risk of being guided to illegal border crossings and aggravating their vulnerability.

In this regard, during 2021 IOM has strengthened information management in crisis and emergency situations through orientation and referral projects at the Migration Reception Stations together with national counterparts: National Migration Service, National Border Service, National Women's Institute, Ombudsman's Office and Ministry of Security. Through the campaign "Speak the truth" aimed at the Haitian migrant population in their country of origin and in transit countries in South America on the risks of irregular migration, communication processes have been developed.

in different countries to promote informed decision making regarding this migration. It also seeks to encourage those who have already traversed this route to share their experience through testimonial videos recorded at the Migration Reception Stations and from the approach of "everything they were not told". Often, informants who have already crossed the jungle share general information such as entry points, costs, contacts, departure dates and other logistical details, but do not have information about the conditions of the route and the challenges it represents. Therefore, a reflection is promoted between what they had heard and what they really lived and are living. In addition, the production process also seeks to provide attention and support to people who have recently traveled through the Darién jungle and, through dialogue and listening, to help them understand that their story can become a valuable tool for other migrants to make decisions. 128

### ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION OF THE POPULATION IN HUMAN MOBILITY SITUATION THROUGH THE DARIÉN

Gender-based sexual violence is one of the main protection risks faced by people in a situation of human mobility through the Darién in 2021. Between April and December 2021 Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) treated 312 survivors of sexual gender-based violence. Approximately 58% of these victims were girls and adolescents and 40% of these cases corresponded to multiple rapes involving up to 10 men. 129

People in transit through the Darién who suffer gender-based sexual violence do not usually report these crimes for two reasons: 130

- a) The criminalization of people in a situation of human mobility generates distrust towards the authorities responsible for dealing with their complaints.
- b) Since their main objective is to reach the United States or Mexico in the shortest possible time, they are not willing to get involved in processes that would delay their migratory route for an uncertain outcome.

This generates a high level of suffering and other mental health problems, exacerbated by the humanitarian situation in Bajo Chiquito. MSF provided around 40,000 medical consultations and 1,300 mental health consultations during 2021. Of the mental health consultations, 70% of patients presented symptoms of distress, depression, anxiety and post-traumatic stress related to their exposure to violence during the migration route. It is anticipated that strengthening mental health services could be one of MSF's priorities during 2022. In the last quarter of 2021, 120 consultations were attended, of which the majority expressed psychological problems derived from witnessing or witnessing deceased persons on the route known as the "loma de la muerte" (death hill). On the other hand, 10% expressed having been the victim of a robbery or a direct threat during the route. 131

In addition to treating cases of sexual and gender-based violence, Médecins Sans Frontières works with the Ministry of Health in Bajo Chiquito to provide the necessary support to implement a comprehensive strategy to treat patients,





## An update on the protection crisis

---

The program also includes awareness-raising and training on what it means to be a survivor of sexual violence, the need to avoid re-victimization (avoiding repetition of questions and the organization of multiple interviews), the importance of confidentiality and the premise that reporting is voluntary. 132

However, gender-based sexual violence is not the only protection risk these people face. Along the 97-kilometer-long Darien Gap, they suffer extortion, robbery, insect and snake bites, and even drowning in the rivers due to their growth in the wet season (March - November). However, any wound or injury can be fatal considering the humidity of the terrain and the length of the route (it is estimated that crossing the Darien can take anywhere from a week to 10 days). Dehydration and hunger are also recurrent experiences suffered by migrants, reducing the possibilities of supporting each other along the way and putting their lives at risk. 133 It should be recalled that in 2021 the Institute of Medicine and Forensic Sciences recorded the death of at least 50 people along this migratory route. However, it is estimated that the real number could be much higher. 134

On the other hand, in 2021 there was an unprecedented increase in the number of children and adolescents (29,524) in a situation of human mobility. According to UNICEF data, approximately 80% of the migrants who crossed the Panama-Colombia border last year belonged to this sector of the population, half of whom were under five years old. Since 2017, it is estimated that 35,732 children and adolescents have crossed the Darien Gap, with 82.6% of this migratory flow concentrated in 2021.135 In addition, five bodies of migrant children were found along this route, and 150 minors, including newborns, arrived in Panama without their parents, despite having traveled with them. 136





## CRIMINAL VIOLENCE

During 2021, at least 41,219 homicides<sup>137</sup>, 1,990 femicides<sup>138</sup> and 99,379<sup>139</sup> people remained missing in the countries of Northern Central America and Mexico.

Taking into consideration the multidimensionality of the violence suffered by the societies of these countries, it cannot be affirmed that the citizen security situation has improved significantly during the past year. Although the homicide figures in El Salvador and Mexico were partially reduced with respect to 2020, this progress has not translated into a greater guarantee for exercising the right to a life of dignity and freedom from violence, especially for girls, adolescents and women, as evidenced by the substantial increase in the number of femicides.

The following table shows the homicide rates and percentages of variation of this crime and femicides comparing the last two years:

Countries	Homicide rate	Percentage of variation of homicides 2021 Vs 2020	Percentage of variation of femicides 2021 Vs 2020
El Salvador	18 x per 100,000 inhabitants	-15%	+7,25%
Honduras	9,95 x per 100,000 inhabitants	-6,5%	+23%
Guatemala	16,6 x per 100,000 inhabitants	+17%	2+8,5%
Panama	29 x per 100,000 inhabitants	-3,6%	+3,25%

Despite institutional efforts to reduce criminal violence, it should be noted that strategies focused mainly on repression and the militarization of public space do not seem to be the most cross-cutting and appropriate approaches to address a problem that is present in all spheres of society in the countries analyzed, given the influence and impact of organized crime, gangs and gangs.

### Considerations:

1. The increase in the number of femicides requires a public policy to prevent these crimes and a firm commitment to reduce the backlog in their registration and investigation. In Guatemala, crimes against women represented up to 37% of the total number of crimes reported to the justice system, and in Mexico the rate of unsolved femicides exceeds 95%. The high level of impunity generates a lack of confidence on the part of women in the system, since it is estimated that only one in ten women report their aggressor. Organizations such as Amnesty International consider the countries analyzed to be some of the most dangerous for women. <sup>140</sup>

2. The link between homicides and disappearances is not always easy to clarify. It is quite likely that a percentage of missing persons do indeed correspond to homicides of persons whose bodies have not yet been located. This suggests the need for greater inter-institutional cooperation and highlights the lack of effectiveness of some public policies. For example, 60% of the reports of disappearances in El Salvador during 2021 were registered in the 22 municipalities prioritized in the Territorial Control Plan. <sup>141</sup> It is worth recalling the location of 40 bodies in a clandestine grave in Chalchuapa. The majority corresponded to girls and women who had been previously reported as missing. <sup>142</sup>

The year 2021 ended with an average of seven disappearances per day, and in the last four years the figures for this crime have been higher than those for homicides. Although official statistics are not sufficiently reliable to establish a precise relationship between the stable number of disappearances and the decrease in homicides, it can be established that gangs exercise such deep territorial control in parts of the country that they maintain clandestine cemeteries where they bury the disappeared, prevent exhumations in them, and gag the families so that they do not denounce, sometimes in complicity with local authorities. <sup>143</sup>

For its part, in Honduras, more than 770 cases of disappearances are still pending resolution since 2019.<sup>144</sup> Likewise, the visit to Mexico by the United Nations Committee on Enforced Disappearances revealed "a structural impunity that favors the reproduction, the cover-up of enforced disappearances and the revictimization". It should be noted that Mexico is the second country in the world, only surpassed by Iraq, in the number of enforced disappearances. <sup>145</sup>

## PROTECTION NEEDS

### Covid-19 in the region:

In the countries analyzed, in general terms, there is no accessible and available information for migrants on the existing health services to which they can have access and, therefore, know and exercise their rights as patients. This scenario has contributed to the lack of uniform criteria for the care of migrants in the different health centers and vaccination sites. This lack of criteria has meant that the right to health of migrants is, to a large extent, discretionary, i.e., difficult to claim as a subjective right. <sup>146</sup>

Only Panama, Costa Rica and Mexico have included migrants in their vaccination plans. However, even in these countries there are no clear protocols to guarantee vaccination for all migrants without discrimination based on their migratory status. In Panama, anyone with a passport, regardless of their migratory status, can access vaccination in accordance with the prioritization criteria. However, the procedure for persons who do not have this document is unknown. <sup>147</sup> In Costa Rica, the Social Security Fund guideline allows migrants in an irregular situation to receive vaccinations in accordance with the prioritization criteria.



access vaccination when they meet the requirement of arraigo,<sup>148</sup> a term that is not defined in the country's legislation. Finally, Mexico announced that it will vaccinate all persons within its territory, but there is no clarity on the mechanism of access to vaccines for persons who do not have an official document. <sup>149</sup>

The following table, prepared by the Pan American Health Organization, shows the countries that include different profiles of people in a situation of human mobility in their vaccination plans:

Countries	Refugees	Humanitarian environments	Internally displaced people	Migrants
El Salvador	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Honduras	No	Yes	No	No
Guatemala	No	No	No	Yes
Panama	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Table prepared by the authors based on official data published by the Pan American Health Organization.

### Considerations

**1.** Pre-existing precarious conditions of health infrastructures have limited access to the services they provide, which has contributed to the increased spread of Covid-19. Populations residing in rural areas and in socially excluded communities have been and are likely to continue to be more vulnerable to the pandemic. <sup>150</sup>

**2.** It is necessary to promote dignified alternatives to immigration detention, especially in Panama and Mexico, where conditions of overcrowding exist, contrary to international recommendations and standards, directly affecting the health, personal integrity and life of people in a situation of human mobility. In this regard, it is necessary to promote effective access to the right to health and equitable vaccination for migrants, taking into consideration the de jure or de facto obstacles that migrants experience in accessing vaccination, such as having an identity document or being registered in the health system. <sup>151</sup>

### BALANCE SHEET OF MIGRATION POLICIES

The number of persons deported from Northern Central America increased by 34.7% between January and December 2021 compared to the same period in 2020, ranging from 93,013 to 125,257. Of these deportees, 52% were Guatemalan nationals, 42% were Honduran nationals, and 6% were Salvadoran nationals. Seventy-four percent of the people

deported from this subregion came from Mexico, compared to 26.5% from the United States. If we analyze the data by country, we find that deportations to El Salvador decreased by 21.8%, while those to Honduras increased by 44.9% and to Guatemala by 39.9%. In relation to the disaggregation of data by condition and sex, we observe that among adults, 80% were men and 20% were women and, among minors, boys represented 62.5% and girls 37.5%. <sup>152</sup>

It is worth noting the notable increase in deportations of children and adolescents (NNA) to the northern countries of Central America. 23,742 children and adolescents were deported to El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala in 2021, representing an increase of 95% over the figures recorded in 2020.<sup>153</sup> For its part, the U.S. Border Patrol apprehended more than 1.7 million migrants from more than 160 countries at the southern border of the United States, the vast majority from El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico. This figure is the highest recorded since 2000 and triples the average number of apprehensions recorded between 2012 and 2020. Of these migrants, 64% were adults and 36% were children and adolescents, of whom an estimated 140,000 arrived unaccompanied. <sup>154</sup>

The dangerousness of the migratory routes to the United States and Mexico is evidenced by the nearly 3,000 migrant deaths from 2014 to 2020 documented by IOM's Missing Migrants Project. In approximately 70% of these cases, the causes of death could not be documented. For most of the persons whose death was documented at this border, it is not possible to determine the cause of death because, in many cases, the human remains are found after being exposed to harsh weather conditions at the border, making it virtually impossible to determine the circumstances of death. This lack of information is also a consequence of the lack of disaggregation of data, as many border authorities only provide annual aggregate figures on migrant deaths after the end of the year, making it difficult to identify the deceased and thus provide a sense of emotional closure to their families. <sup>155</sup>

The common border between the United States and Mexico is not the only migratory route that entails danger for migrants. From 2014 to 2020 the IOM's Missing Migrants Project documented nearly 750 deaths that occurred in Central America, mainly in Mexico (650), but also in Panama (50), Nicaragua (21), Guatemala (15), Costa Rica

(7) and El Salvador (1). However, it is estimated that there is a high rate of underreporting due to the frequent discovery of mass graves. In January 2021, the human remains of 19 people (16 from Guatemala and 3 from Mexico) were discovered in the state of Tamaulipas. These mass disappearances and deaths occurred along migration corridors where criminal organizations, including human trafficking organizations, operate. According to IOM's Missing Migrants Project, "the violence and criminality associated with these groups constitute additional risks for migrants during their migratory processes and, in addition, complicate efforts to document migrant deaths and disappearances."

In relation to migration data, Mexico has also surpassed some of its records. Between January and October 2021, the country received 108,195 asylum applications, with people from the following countries prevailing:<sup>156</sup>



Photo by: European Union/ECHO/A. Aragon 2016



Haiti (35%)  
Honduras (33%)  
Cuba (10%)  
El Salvador (5%)  
Children of Haitians born in Chile (4,89%)  
Venezuela (4,72%)  
Guatemala (3,51%)  
Nicaragua (2,45%)  
Children of Haitian nationals born in Brazil (2,31%)  
Colombia (0,97%)

It should be noted that people in a situation of human mobility who are not detained and manage to remain in Mexico face a complex process to regularize their situation. Since it began its records in 2013, the Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance (COMAR) has received approximately 280,000 refugee applications, of which only 23.71% of the cases obtained a positive resolution. 157

As can be seen, the number of Haitians in a situation of human mobility predominates both on the southern border of the United States with Mexico and on the Panama-Colombia border. In this regard, it should be noted that intra-regional migration of Haitian nationals, mainly from Brazil and Chile, is not a recent phenomenon. In the latter country already in 2019, for the first time, more departures than entries of Haitian people were recorded. An estimated 3,500 people from this country had emigrated from Chile from January to September 2021. The causes behind this migration are, fundamentally, the lack of socioeconomic opportunities and the bureaucratic difficulties to regularize their migratory situation. According to the legislation of the outgoing president, Sebastián Piñera, Haitian migrants had a period that expired last October 17 to regularize their papers, having to present, among the requirements, a background certificate issued in Haiti. The social outburst experienced in Chile in October 2019 and the socioeconomic effects of Covid-19 have exacerbated the difficulties for the Haitian population to be adequately welcomed and integrated. 158

In this regard, the IOM noted that more than 14,000 Haitian nationals were deported from the United States, 1,541 from the Dominican Republic, 1,362 from Cuba, 1,163 from the Bahamas, 375 from Mexico and 142 from the Turks and Caicos Islands in the last quarter of 2021.159 It should be recalled that in September 2021, UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF and OHCHR urged States not to expel Haitian nationals without first assessing their protection needs, to guarantee the fundamental human rights of Haitian nationals in a situation of mobility and to offer protection mechanisms or legal stay agreements to facilitate effective access to regular migration channels. 160

### Considerations:

1. It is estimated that the reactivation of the "Stay in Mexico" Program (MPP) as of December 6, 2021 will expose asylum seekers to protection risks such as gender-based sexual violence, robbery, kidnapping and extortion by both organized crime groups and security agents in Mexican border cities such as Tamaulipas. It also represents a de facto violation of the human right to seek international protection in the United States. It is estimated that 410 migrants were returned from U.S. territory to Mexico in the period from its reactivation on December 6 through January 31, 2022.161

2. Northern Central American migrants who left their countries in the last five years spent, on average, \$1.7 billion to migrate irregularly to the United States and Mexico through smugglers and coyotes. Legal avenues for human mobility need to be expanded to redirect migration from irregular to regular channels. Criminalization and border closures have not necessarily resulted in a reduction of irregular migration or ensured orderly, safe and dignified mobility, but rather an exponential increase in new routes, blind spots and increased risks. However, coordinated action to increase access to visas for temporary workers, among other measures, could help meet the overwhelming demand for employment opportunities abroad. 162

3. The socioeconomic crisis in Cuba and the worsening of the humanitarian crises in Haiti, Honduras and Venezuela require an update of the humanitarian system in the region, adapted to the needs of people in situations of human mobility in countries of origin, transit, destination and return. This update must incorporate the triple nexus of humanitarian action-development-human rights to address the multidimensionality of migration, taking into account the following:163

*The criminalization of civil society organizations that have participated in protests in Cuba, violations of judicial guarantees such as the incommunicado detention of detained persons, the use of interrogations for intimidatory purposes and the impossibility of having an adequate legal defense, in addition to the socioeconomic crisis that the country is going through, could lead to an increase in the number of Cuban nationals in a situation of human mobility. It should be noted that on November 22, 2021, the Nicaraguan government announced the implementation of a free visa for the entry of Cuban nationals into Nicaraguan territory. This measure could activate a new migratory route for Cubans seeking to leave the country for the United States and Mexico.*

*In the countries of Northern Central America, 6.4 million people are food insecure and those who are food insecure are three times more likely to make concrete plans to migrate than people who are not food insecure.*

*Forty percent of the territory of Haiti's capital is controlled by criminal groups, blocking access to basic goods and humanitarian aid. 4.6 million people in the country may become food insecure.*

*The Venezuelan population in a situation of human mobility needs to continue guaranteeing the provision of humanitarian assistance, given that they continue to be exposed to violations and threats during their migratory route to the United States and Mexico. On the other hand, the complex conditions for their return imply the need to simultaneously support measures focused on the development and socioeconomic integration of the Venezuelan migrant population in the different host communities of the region. 164*



## BIBLIOGRAPHY.

- 1 SwissInfo, [2021 will be the safest year on record in El Salvador, says Bukele](#), December 2021.
- 2 SwissInfo, [El Salvador Attorney General's Office reports 488 disappearances between January and November](#), December 2021.
- 3 Missing Angel Alert, [Active Cases](#), December 2021.
- 4 Our World in Data, [Vaccines against COVID-19 El Salvador](#), December 2021.
- 5 Comisión Mexicana de Ayuda a los Refugiados, [Refugee Applications by Delegation](#), December 2021.
- 6 Northern Triangle Human Mobility Information Management Initiative - NTMI, [Returnee Statistics El Salvador](#), December 2021.
- 7 Agencia EFE, [Bukele says El Salvador is no longer the most violent country in the world](#), November 2021.
- 8 Presidency of the Government of El Salvador, [Homicides from January to December 2020 disaggregated by month, sex and department](#), January 2021.
- 9 Presidency of the Government of El Salvador, [The Government of President Nayib Bukele has achieved a decrease of more than 10,000 homicides](#), January 2022.
- 10 DW Latin America, [El Salvador searches for half a thousand missing persons](#), December 2021.
- 11 El Salvador.com, [Cinco de cada diez desaparecidos no son encontrados](#), October 2021.
- 12 Expansion Macro Data, [El Salvador Covid-19 Vaccines administered](#), January 2021.
- 13 PROGRESAN-SICA, [Report of the IPC Acute Food Insecurity Analysis, El Salvador. July 2021 - May 2022](#), September 2021.
- 14 Asociación de Periodistas de El Salvador, [Casos de vulneraciones contra mujeres periodistas se incrementa en 165%](#), November 2021.
- 15 InSightCrime, [El Salvador officials blacklisted by US over gang pact allegations](#), December 2021.
- 16 El Faro, [Crónica de los tropiezos políticos en la negociación con el FMI](#), December 2021.
- 17 El Faro, [The community without water, but with bitcoin](#), October 2021.
- 18 Online Police Statistical System, [National Homicide Comparative Situation \(preliminary data\)](#), December 2021.
- 19 Centro de Derechos de las Mujeres, [Observatorio de violencias contra las mujeres, Monitoreo 2020 y 2021](#), December 2021.
- 20 Expansion Macro Data, [Honduras - COVID-19, Vaccines administered](#), January 2021.
- 21 Comisión Mexicana de Ayuda a los Refugiados, [Refugee Applications by Delegation](#), December 2021.
- 22 Northern Triangle Human Mobility Information Management Initiative - NTMI, [Returnee Statistics Honduras](#), December 2021.
- 23 Online Police Statistical System, [Comparative situation of homicides at the national level \(preliminary data\)](#), December 2021.
- 24 Online Police Statistical System, Online Police Statistical System, [National Homicide Comparative Situation \(preliminary data\)](#), December 2021.
- 25 Centro de Derechos de Mujeres, [Observatorio de violencias contra las mujeres](#), December 2021.
- 26 El País.Hn, [74.8% of femicides in Honduras occur at the hands of organized crime](#), September 2021.
- 27 World Health Organization, [Interim recommendations on the use of Pfizer and BioNTech's BNT162b2 vaccine against COVID-19 under the Emergency Use List](#), June 2021.
- 28 National Institute of Statistics, [Population projections by department 2013-2030](#), 2021.
- 29 Revistazo, [Honduras would be buying three million pediatric vaccines from Pfizer](#), December 2021.
- 30 La Prensa, [Vacunas pediátricas llegarán a finales de enero, confirma Salud](#), December 2021.
- 31 Government of the Republic of Honduras, [Some 103,611 Nicaraguans vaccinated Honduras with first dose](#), November 2021.
- 32 Expediente Público, [Nicaraguans prefer exodus to Russian and Cuban vaccines against Covid-19](#), October 2021.
- 33 La Voz de América, [Nicaraguans will have to wait until after the elections to get vaccinated in Honduras](#), November 2021.
- 34 El Tiempo, [Honduras, third Latin American country with the most murdered journalists](#), October 2021.
- 35 Proceso Digital, [Honduras among the countries with the most murdered journalists, according to organizations](#), October 2021.
- 36 Cattrachas, [Statistical Observatory, Number of Deaths 2009-2021](#), January 2022.
- 37 Report without fear, [Honduras: the 280 deaths of Vicky Hernandez](#), December 2021.
- 38 OMCT SOS-Torture Network, [Honduras: Attack against the daughter of human rights defender Hedme Castro](#), December 2021.
- 39 OHCHR, [Honduras: Free the Guapinol community defenders and comply with your international commitments - urge UN human rights experts](#), November 2021.
- 40 OHCHR, [Honduras: Free the Guapinol community defenders and comply with your international commitments - urge UN human rights experts](#), November 2021.
- 41 CEJIL, <https://cejil.org/comunicado-de-prensa/ante-proximo-juicio-organizaciones-presentan-el-observatorio-por-la-justicia-de-los-defensores-del-rio-guapinol/>, November 2021.
- 42 UNAH, IUDPAS and NDI, [Bulletin No. 4 on Electoral Political Violence](#), November 2021.
- 43 Association for a More Just Society, [Honduras experienced more than 80 electoral conflicts between January and October 2021: ASJ report](#), November 2021.
- 44 La Prensa, [PN and Libre to sign electoral peace agreement with the CNE](#), November 2021.
- 45 Center for the Study of Democracy, [Electoral Institutionalality | Amidst uncertainty, boycott and distrust, the electoral institutionalality guaranteed the realization of transparent and peaceful elections](#), December 2021.
- 46 National Electoral Council, [General Elections of Honduras November 28, 2021 - General Canvass](#), November 2021.
- 47 Libre, [Plan de Gobierno para Refundar Honduras 2022-2026](#), December 2021.
- 48 Technical Secretariat of the National Security Council, [Statistical Report](#), August 2021.
- 49 National Institute of Forensic Sciences of Guatemala, [Monthly Information](#), September 2021.
- 50 Alba-Keneth Alert, [Statistics](#), September 2021.
- 51 National Institute of Forensic Sciences of Guatemala, [Monthly Information](#), September 2021.
- 52 UNHCR, [Fact Sheet](#), November 2021.
- 53 UNHCR, [Fact Sheet](#), November 2021.
- 54 Human Mobility Information Management Initiative in the Northern Triangle IOM, [Returnee Statistics](#), September 2021.
- 55 Infosegura, [Análisis multidimensional de Seguridad Ciudadana de Guatemala](#), October 2021.
- 56 National Institute of Forensic Sciences of Guatemala, [Monthly information](#), November 2021.
- 57 Observatorio de Derechos Humanos y Violencias por Orientación Sexual e Identidad de Género, [Informe mensual](#), enero 2021. / Observatorio de Derechos Humanos y Violencias por Orientación Sexual e Identidad de Género, [Informe mensual](#), Febrero 2021. / Observatorio de Derechos Humanos y Violencias por Orientación Sexual e Identidad de Género, Monthly Report, March 2021. / Observatorio de Derechos Humanos y Violencias por Orientación Sexual e Identidad de Género, Monthly [Report](#), May 2021. / Observatorio de Derechos Humanos y Violencias por Orientación Sexual e Identidad de Género, Monthly [Report](#), May 2021. Observatorio de Derechos Humanos y Violencias por Orientación Sexual e Identidad de Género, [Informe mensual](#), junio 2021 / Observatorio de Derechos Humanos y Violencias por Orientación Sexual e Identidad de Género, Informe mensual, julio 2021 / Observatorio de Derechos Humanos y Violencias por Orientación Sexual e Identidad de Género, [Informe mensual](#), julio 2021. / Observatorio de Derechos Humanos y Violencias por Orientación Sexual e Identidad de Género, Informe [mensual](#), agosto 2021.
- 58 Observatorio de las Mujeres de Ministerio Público, [Portal Estadístico](#), December 2021.
- 59 El Periódico, [Guatemala reaches record level of food insecurity](#), December 2021.
- 60 Swissinfo, [Muertes por desnutrición aguda se duplican en Guatemala en 2021](#), December 2021.
- 61 SICA, [Guatemala: 3.5 million people are in a situation of acute food insecurity crisis or emergency for the period May to August 2021](#), June 2021.
- 62 World Food Program, [Charting a New Regional Course: The Complex Drivers and Costs of Central American Migration](#), November 2021.
- 63 El Periódico, [Migración interna, el desplazamiento forzado que no registran las cifras en Guatemala](#), November 2021.
- 64 Instituto de investigación y proyección sobre dinámicas globales y territoriales/URL, [Ente sobrevivir y perderlo todo](#), November 2021.
- 65 Community Press, [The News of 2021: The takeover of El Estor by Swiss-Russian mining company Solway](#), December 2021.
- 66 Prensa Libre, [Fiscal year 2021 breaks record for Guatemalan migration and remittances](#), November 2021.
- 67 Prensa Libre, [Mexico has deported more than 63,000 Guatemalans by land in 2021](#), December 2021.
- 68 Prensa Libre, [Fiscal year 2021 breaks record for Guatemalan migration and remittances](#), November 2021.
- 69 Prensa Libre, [Minex reduces budget for attention to migrants this year and for 2022](#), October 2021.
- 70 Worl Food Program, [Charting a New Regional Course of Action: The Complex Motivations and Costs of Central American Migration](#), November 2021.
- 71 Agencia Guatemalteca de Noticias, [Government maintains actions to combat migrant smuggling](#), December 2021.
- 72 Prensa Libre, [Minister of Interior confirms investigation process of coyotaje gangs in Chiquimula](#), October 2021.
- 73 Prensa Libre, [What was the fate of migrants from Haiti, Nepal and Ghana who were found in an abandoned van in Escuintla](#), October 2021. . Prensa Libre, [Termina la ilusión por llegar a EE.UU.: coyotes abandon nuevo grupo de migrantes haitianos, Policía localiza los localiza entre cañaverales en una finca de Retalhuleu](#), October 2021.
- 74 Prensa Libre, [CIDH points out that requests for pre-trial trials are harassment for justice operators and the government rejects the accusations](#), October 2021.
- 75 Secretariado Ejecutivo del Sistema Nacional de Seguridad Pública, Government of Mexico, Incidencia Delictiva del Fuero Común, years 2019 to 2021, January 2022; Forbes Mexico, Julian Andrade, [La seguridad y el espanto](#), January 2022.
- 76 InSight Crime, Sugery Gándara, [CJNG seeks criminal hegemony and sets Mexico ablaze](#), January 2022.
- 77 United States Department of Justice, [Alleged CJNG Cartel Enforcers Charged with Drug Trafficking](#), June 2021
- 78 InSight Crime, Victoria Dittmar, [Three criminal fronts behind violence in Sonora, Mexico](#), January 2022.
- 79 Aristegui Noticias, Redacción, [There are 52 thousand bodies that have not been identified in the country](#), January 2022.
- 80 Reforma, César Martínez, [Desplaza violencia a 36 mil en México](#), January 2022.
- 81 El Economista, Maritza Pérez, [Persiste impunidad y violaciones a derechos humanos en sexenio de AMLO](#), January 2022.
- 82 Aristegui Noticias, [Torture, extrajudicial executions and forced disappearances continue in Mexico, says HRW report](#), January 2021.
- 83 El Economista, Maritza Pérez, [Pandemic, violence and poverty impact children in Mexico](#), January 2022.
- 84 Agencia EFE, Redacción, [The Mexican government will act with "prudence" in the face of the new migrant caravan](#), October 2021.
- 85 Diario de Chiapas, Jeny Pascacio, [Lanza INM advertencia](#), October 2021.
- 86 Agencia EFE, Redacción, [Authorities activate operation against migrant caravan in southern Mexico](#), November 2021.
- 87 El Universal, Alen Pimentel, [INM will provide humanitarian visitor cards to migrants in Oaxaca and 5 other states](#), November 2021.
- 88 The San Diego Union-Tribune, Raúl Vera, [Mexico Immigration delivers 800 visas to caravan members](#), November 2021.
- 89 El Diario de Chihuahua, Redacción, [Se duplican los rescues de migrantes; el INM los halla en tráileres, bodegas...](#), diciembre 2021; Proceso, Luciano Campos, [Hallan a 105 migrantes hacinados en un hotel de Monterrey](#), diciembre 2021; El Heraldo de Juárez, [Encuentran 31 migrantes en dos viviendas en El Paso](#),



2021; Televisa Noticias, Héctor Vargas, [Rescatan a 143 migrantes centroamericanos hacinados en caja de un camión en Oaxaca](#), December 2021; Aristegui Noticias, Redacción, [Rescatan a 20 menores guatemaltecos abandonados en Jalisco](#), December 2021; Proceso, Redacción, [Rescatan a más de 200 migrantes hacinados en un camión en Puebla](#), December 2021.

90 Deutsche-Welle, Redacción, [México y Centroamérica crean grupo contra tráfico humano](#), December 2021; Proceso, Neldy San Martín, [Titular de Migración com- parecerá por el accidente donde murieron 55 personas en Chiapas](#), December 2021.

91 Hola News, Editor, [Migrant advocates chastise Biden for perpetuating Title 42 and MPP](#), December 2021.

92 Los Angeles Times, Selene Rivera, [Nearly 9,000 kidnappings, torture and rapes of immigrants in Mexico during Biden's first year as president](#), December 2021.

93 La Nación, Jorge Castañeda, [La crisis fronteriza de Biden](#), October 2021.

94 La Razón, Jorge Butrón, [Al al alza, captures and deportations of migrants](#), October 2021; Voz de América, Redacción, [U.S. Expels Most Migrants Arriving at Southern Border Based on Title 42](#), October 2021.

95 Los Angeles Times, [Latino voting advocates urge Democrats to pass immigration reform](#), October 2021.

96 Aristegui Noticias, Redacción, [AMLO will ask Biden to fulfill commitment to regularize 11 million migrants](#), November 2021.

97 Prensa Libre, [U.S. Federal Court authorizes Biden to continue swift migrant removals, under Title 42](#), October 2021; Sputnik Mundo, [U.S. Court authorizes government to expel migrants from country at southern border](#), October 2021.

98 Deutsche Welle, [U.S. Justice authorizes continued removal of migrants under Title 42](#), October 2021.

99 El Heraldo de México, Redacción, [Detienen a 160 migrantes en Sonora-Arizona; 130 son menores que viajaban solos](#), October 2021.

100 Voice of America, Editor, [Record number of Salvadoran migrants detained at the US southern border reported: in 2021](#), October 2021.

101 El Mundo, Javier Maldonado, [Exodus of Salvadoran migrants to the US to increase fivefold in 2021](#), October 2021.

102 Televisa Noticias, Raúl Mendoza, [United States expels in 13 days three times as many Haitians as in the last 7 months](#), October 2021.

103 The Independent, Josh Marcus, [Biden's border crackdown reduces Haitian crossings by 90 percent](#), November 2021.

104 El Universal, Víctor Gamboa, [INM delivers immigration documents to almost 17,000 Haitians to reside in Mexico](#), October 2021.

105 La Jornada, Néstor Jiménez, [Of almost 110,000 asylum requests this year, Comar has resolved 29% of cases](#), November 2021.

106 Animal Político, Alberto Pradilla, [México cambió trato a migrantes por presiones de EU, dicen Eurodiputados](#), October 2021.

107 Infobae, Redacción, [ADO has new requirements to check travelers' immigration status](#), October 2021.

108 Agencia EFE, Redacción, [EEUU prevé reinstalar el programa "Quédate en México" en las próximas semanas](#), noviembre 2021; Grupo Milenio, Adyr Corral, [EU prevé reimplementar 'Quédate en México' en Tijuana, Matamoros y Ciudad Juárez](#), noviembre 2021; Agencia EFE, [Biden prevé reinstalar el programa "Quédate en México" la próxima semana](#), noviembre 2021.

109 Voice of America, Editorial Staff, [U.S. still seeks agreement with Mexico on return of asylum seekers known as MPP](#), November 2021; Proceso, Mathieu Tourliere, [Gobierno de AMLO acepta reanudación del programa "Quédate en México"](#), December 2021.

110 Department of Homeland Security (DHS), [Migrant Protection Protocols \(MPP\) Report on December Cohort DHS Office of Immigration Statistics](#), January 2022.

111 Diario Portal, Leobardo Hernández, [Desechan iniciativa Mérida de Calderón; México y EU atenderán las causas del crimen y migración como propuso AMLO](#), October 2021; El Heraldo de Chihuahua, Roxana González, [Para frenar migración EUá invertirá en Centroamérica](#), October 2021; NVI Noticias, Redacción, [México y EEUU atacarán raíces del narcotráfico y la migración ilegal](#), October 2021; El Tiempo, Editorial Staff, [Biden promises more investment in Mexico and Central America to curb migration](#), October 2021; La Jornada, Fabiola Martínez, [Biden agrees to promote Mexico's plan on migration](#), October 2021; El Economista, Sergio Mota, [US investment in southeastern Mexico](#), October 2021.

112 El Periódico de México, Sophia Taren, [U.S. suspends immigration raids at work sites](#), October 2021; Los Angeles Times, Ben Fox, [U.S. to limit arrests of migrants in schools or parks](#), October 2021; Mundiario, Nelsymar Ulrich, [U.S. restricts raids and detentions in illegal migration cases](#), October 2021.

113 The San Diego Union-Tribune, Editor, [U.S. removes limits on processing asylum seekers at the border](#), November 2021.

114 The San Diego Union-Tribune, Editorial Staff, [U.S. modifies visa rules for immigrant spouses](#), November 2021.

115 Servicio Nacional de Migración, [Irregulares por Darién](#), December 2021.

116 Defensoría del Pueblo, [Disminuye flujo de migrantes en el Darién](#), January 2022.

117 Radio Panama, [More of the 133 thousand migrants who crossed the Darien in 2021, only 51 requested protection from the Panamanian State](#), February 2022.

118 PAHO, [COVID-19 - Panama Situation Report N°69 - December 28, 2021](#), December 2021.

119 PAHO, [COVID-19 - Panama Situation Report N°70 - January 11, 2022](#), January 2022.

120 PAHO and SINGRETRADS-CS, [El trabajo doméstico en Panamá frente a la crisis provocada por la pandemia de COVID-19. Characterization of domestic workers affiliated to SINGRETRADS-CS](#), December 2021.

121 PAHO and SINGRETRADS-CS, [El trabajo doméstico en Panamá frente a la crisis provocada por la pandemia de COVID-19. Characterization of domestic workers affiliated to SINGRETRADS-CS](#), December 2021.

122 Servicio Nacional de Migración, [Estadísticas movimientos migratorios](#), January 2022.

123 Servicio Nacional de Migración, [Tránsito irregular de extranjeros por la frontera con Colombia por región según orden de importancia: año 2021](#), enero 2022.

124 DW, [Colombia and Panama agree to control migration flow at their border](#), August 2021.

125 Radio Caracol, [El Pacífico: la ruta en auge de los migrantes para pasar a Panamá](#), January 2022.

126 Ministry of Government, [Impulsan la construcción de una oficina de ONPAR en Darién](#), January 2022.

127 International Rescue Committee, [Reliable information, humanitarian response capacities and basic services among key needs to address Darien crisis: IRC warns](#), December 2021.

128 Testimony of a humanitarian organization based in Panama; IOM, [Somos Colmena Project, Pala Verite](#), 2021.

129 Testimony of a humanitarian organization based in Panama.

130 Doctors Without Borders, [The Darien Crossing: "You don't expect a humanitarian crisis like this in a country like Panama"](#), November 2021.

131 Testimony of a humanitarian organization based in Panama.

132 Doctors Without Borders, [The Darien Crossing: "You don't expect a humanitarian crisis like this in a country like Panama"](#), November 2021.

133 Aljazeera, [Migrants brave perilous Darien Gap in desperate trek to US](#), November 2021.

134 Radio Panama, [Panama buries deceased migrants in the Darien jungle](#), October 2021.

135 UNICEF Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, [UNICEF: 2021 records highest number of child migrants crossing the Darien jungle to the US](#), October 2021.

136 OCHA, Latin America & The Caribbean, [Weekly Situation Update \(11-17 October 2021\) As of 18 October 2021](#), October 2021.

137 DW, [El Salvador government: 2021 was "the safest year"](#), January 2022; Swissinfo, [Homicides in Honduras rise 6.5% and exceed 2,700 in 9 months of 2021](#), October 2021; Hola News, [Violence left 4,071 murders in Guatemala during 2021](#), January 2022; DW, [Mexico closes 2021 with homicides down](#), January 2022.

138 Swissinfo, [Los feminicidios en El Salvador se elevaron un 7,25 % hasta noviembre](#), diciembre 2021; Centro de Derechos de Mujeres, [Femicidios en Honduras - 2021](#), enero 2022; República, [Los femicidios en Guatemala se incrementaron un 28.5 % durante 2021](#), enero 2022; El País, [Mexico cierra un año negro con mas de 3,000 women murdered](#), December 2021.

139 Agencia Efe, [El Salvador Prosecutor's Office reports 488 disappearances between January and November](#), December 2021; La Prensa, [More than 770 cases of desa- pare Hondurans remain unresolved since 2019](#), April 2021; La Hora, [More than 3,000 girls and adolescents have disappeared in 2021](#), October 2021; France 24, [UN Committee against enforced disappearances lashed out at Mexican government](#), November 2021.

140 La República, [Femicides in Guatemala increased by 28.5 % during 2021](#), January 2022; El País, [Mexico closes a black year with more than 3,000 women murdered](#), December 2021.

141 La Prensa Gráfica, [Desaparecidos ya superan cifra de homicidios en El Salvador](#), November 2021.

142 France 24, [El Salvador: possible clandestine cemetery of femicide victims investigated](#), May 2021.

143 Infobae, [Desapariciones y cementerios clandestinos: dos dramas de El Salvador de los que Nayib Bukele hace silencio](#), December 2021.

144 La Prensa, [More than 770 cases of missing Hondurans remain unsolved since 2019](#), April 2021.

145 El País, [Mexico closes a black year with more than 3,000 women murdered](#), December 2021.

146 CEJIL, [Ref. Report: The impact of COVID-19 on the human rights of migrants](#), June 2021.

147 Acnur Panamá, [Información sobre proceso y registro de vacunación COVID-19](#), January 2022.

148 Ministerio de Salud República de Costa Rica y Caja Costarricense de la Caja del Seguro Social, [Directriz del Manual de Procedimiento para la Ejecución de la vacunación contra el Covid-19 en los establecimientos de salud de la Caja Costarricense de Seguro Social](#), May 2021.

149 El Sol de Toluca, [¿Cuál es la situación de los migrantes respecto a la vacuna contra Covid-19](#), June 2021.

150 International Rescue Committee, [Haiti, Honduras and Venezuela to face humanitarian risks with regional impact in 2022 if unaddressed: IRC warns](#), January 2022.

151 CEJIL, [Ref. Report: The impact of COVID-19 on the human rights of migrants](#), June 2021.

152 Northern Triangle Human Mobility Information Management Initiative - NTMI, [Regional Return Information / January - December 2021](#), January 2022.

153 Proceso Digital, [Deportation of children to northern Central America soared 92 % in 2021](#), February 2022.

154 BBC, [U.S. releases highest number of immigrant detentions ever recorded at Mexico border](#), October 2021; El País, [Mexico reaches new record high for asylum applications: more than 100,000 by October](#), November 2021.

155 IOM, Black, J. and E. Viales Mora, ["Si no es por pura necesidad" Muertes y desapariciones en trayectos migratorios en Norte y Centroamérica](#), December 2021.

156 El País, [Mexico reaches new record high for asylum applications: more than 100,000 by October](#), November 2021.

157 El País, [Mexico reaches new record high for asylum applications: more than 100,000 by October](#), November 2021.

158 Jesuit Migrant Service Chile, [Why are so many Haitians leaving Chile?](#) September 2021.

159 Telesur, [Denuncian deportación de más de 1.500 haitianos desde Dominicana](#), November 2021; Telesur, [Más de 10.000 haitianos han sido deportados por EEUU](#), December 2021.

160 UNHCR, [UN agencies call for protection measures and a comprehensive regional approach for Haitians in mobility. Joint statement by UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF and UN Human Rights](#), September 2021.

161 Human Rights Watch, [Restarting 'Remain in Mexico' a Travesty](#), December 2021; Diario, [Retornan con MPP a seis migrantes diarios](#), January 2022; Agencia EFE, [Denuncian fallas y confusión en audiencias de "Quédate en México"](#), February 2022.



162 MPI, PMA, Civic Data and Design Lab, [The Complex Motivations and Costs of Central American Migration](#), November 2021.

163 World Food Program, [Report: Halting the surge in migration from Central America requires addressing its root causes and immediate needs](#), November 2021; International Rescue Committee, [Haiti, Honduras and Venezuela to face humanitarian risks with regional impact in 2022 if unaddressed: IRC warns](#), January 2022; OAS, [IACHR expresses concern over worsening repression and other human rights violations since July protests in Cuba](#), November 2021; Infobae, [Nicaragua, "el paraíso" incendiado que buscan miles de cubanos](#), January 2022.

164 We World and the Institute for Studies on Conflict and Humanitarian Action (IECAH), [The application of the "triple nexus" approach between humanitarian action, development and peace in the context of Venezuela's migratory flows](#), January 2022.



Led by



CONSEJO NORUEGO  
PARA REFUGIADOS

Funded by



Cofinanciado  
por la Unión Europea  
Ayuda Humanitaria







Photo credit: AnaKarinaDelgado, NRC, 2017

