



Bulletin 20

PROTECTION CRISIS IN NORTHERN CENTRAL AMERICA, MEXICO AND PANAMA

Key data from June - September 2022

This twentieth bulletin provides an update on the protection crisis in Northern Central America, Mexico, and Panama, consolidated by monitoring indicators such as criminal violence, barriers to access rights, migration policies and protection needs. Various sources from the government, non-government and media were consulted, and this is the landscape they provide for the third quarter of 2022.

PERVASIVE VIOLENCE

40
Femicides

At least, registered in 9 months of 2022.¹

No official data published for homicides in the third quarter of 2022.

No official published data on disappearances for the third quarter of 2022.

3
Active cases of children and adolescent disappearances

The "Ángel Desaparecido" Alert remained during the third quarter of 2022.²

PROTECTION NEEDS

5,870
Salvadorians applied for asylum in México.³

(until the end of the third quarter of 2022).
In the same period of 2021, the number of asylum applications was 5,946.

At least 42 feminicides committed, of which 13 were perpetrated by life partners of former life partners of the victims.

Likewise, in 10 months of 2022 (January-October) 26 survivors of femicide perpetrated by their partners are reported, that is, women who were attacked by the person they lived with, but managed to survive. Fire arm (16) prevailed in femicides, followed by knives (11); one woman was burned, 2 were asphyxiated and one was raped and had her throat cut.⁵

(Data collected by ORMUSA NGO, through media monitoring made from January 1 to October 25, 2022)

408
Cases of human rights violations.⁴

Registered until September 24, the Human Rights Institute of the José Simeón Cañas Central American University (UCA, for its acronym in Spanish), since the implementation of the exception regime, and 444 indirect victims. The gender of victims is: 83.1% male and 13.5% female. 3.4% is not expressed.⁶

28
Municipalities of El Salvador in red alert.

According to information provided on the rainy season in the country on September 22, 2022 by Civil Protection, in the monitoring of natural threats of the Pan American Health Organization And the World Health Organization. On September 21, 2022, a landslide caused by rain occurred in a hamlet in the municipality of Huizúcar, in the department of La Libertad, El Salvador. So far, five fatalities have been reported.⁷

BALANCE OF MIGRATION POLICIES

10,399
Deported people

between July and September 2022 from Mexico and the United States.

The total number of people deported in the first half of 2022 represents an increase of 221.1% in comparison with the same period in 2021, year when there were 4,626.

61% Men 39% Women

53,3% Boys 46,7% Girls

(of the total of minors)

People deported in the third quarter of 2022 come mainly from the departments of San Salvador, San Miguel, and La Libertad.

El Salvador

An update on the protection crisis

NATIONAL ANALYSIS

PERVASIVE VIOLENCIA

The absence of official figures on homicides in El Salvador prevents us from knowing the evolution of this crime and its impact on the population. The administration of President Nayib Bukele reports that 204 homicide-free days have been recorded during this administration. The Government has attributed the reduction in homicides to the Territorial Control plan and the measure of exception regime implemented in the country since the end of March to “combat” the gangs in a “war” against these structures.⁸ However, the exception regime has been extended for the sixth time, a measure that has made it possible to detain more than 52,000 people without a court order, suspending the freedom of association and the right of defence of the accused, among other restriction.⁹

Violations of human rights continue to be alarming under the exception regime. National and international human rights organizations have reported that the exception regime promotes human rights violations, such as arbitrary arrests and deaths in prisons. The Institute of Forensic Medicine (IML, for its acronym in Spanish) reported that on August 26, 73 deaths were recorded in prisons since March 27, when this measure was implemented¹⁰.

On the other hand, the report published at 9 months of 2022 and entitled “The disappearance of people in El Salvador: the continuum of impunity” of the University Observatory of Human Rights of the UCA, indicates that disappearances have continued to increase. The Salvadoran Police received between January 2020 and June 2022 a total of 4,060 reports of disappearances, of which the whereabouts of 1,309 people are still unknown, while in 2,751 cases the victim was located, 255 without life. Seventy-nine (79) per cent of people still missing since 2020 are men and 21 per cent are women. Youth aged 18 to 30 are the most affected, accumulating 41.67 per cent of cases, followed by adolescents aged 12 to 17 with 15 per cent. To date, it has not been possible to obtain the most up-to-date data from the Attorney General’s Office on disappearances, given that the institution claims that the data are non-existent.¹¹

PROTECTION NEEDS

Children in situations of human mobility

Detention of unaccompanied minors increased. US authorities report 16,431 minors attempting to cross the border illegally and unaccompanied. For the previous year, data indicate that the figure was 15,529. Another group that reports higher arrests is that of adults traveling alone. The U.S. Customs and

Border Protection Division reported a total of 10,209 in 2020; the number increased for 2021 to 45,636. While by 2022, the figure has already reached 51,771.¹²

According to data published by the Migration Policy, Registration and Identity of Persons Unit (UMPRIP, for its acronym in Spanish), from January 2021 to July 2022, 108,153 events of children and adolescents identified by the migration authority were presented in Central America. Twenty (20) per cent (22,576) of children and adolescents were not accompanied by an adult. In the case of El Salvador, 8,821 children and adolescents were counted in this situation.¹³

Public health

Dengue has been a health problem that has kept rising. Dengue remains of public concern: in week 38 (until September 24) of 2022 there are 14,816 suspected cases, compared with 20,262 cases in 2019. As of week 38, of 2022, 37 probable cases of dengue have been reported compared to 410 cases for the same period in 2019. As of week 37, of 2022, 55 cases have been confirmed and for the same period in 2019, 595 cases had been confirmed. On the other hand, 1,759 hospitalizations have been reported in 2022.¹⁴

On the other hand, until July 27, the fifth wave of Covid-19 in El Salvador caused more than 28,400 new cases of the disease, according to the Ministry of Health (MINSAL, for its acronym in Spanish)¹⁵. However, an interesting fact is that, at the end of August 2022 accumulated more cases than the previous two years, the difference is that the deaths officially recognized by the government have been reduced compared to 2020 and 2021. As of August 29, MINSAL admitted the death of 397 people due to covid-19. In all of 2020, the government reported 1,343 deaths and another 2,481 in the 12 months of 2021. The fatality rate also reflects a significant decrease: in 2020 it was 2.9 per cent, in 2021 it rose to 3.3 per cent, but in 2022 it is at 0.5 per cent.¹⁶

Food security

According to OCHA monitoring, from October 2022 to January 2023, seasonal improvements are planned in terms of food security for households suffering from poverty in rural and urban areas and also a slight decrease in the prices of basic grains.¹⁷



An update on the protection crisis

Attacks on journalists and human rights defenders

Human rights organizations and journalists launched the report “Defending human rights in crisis contexts: analysis of cases of aggression against defenders and journalists, 2021-2022”. The organizations that participated are the Salvadoran Network of Human Rights Defenders, the Monitoring Centre of the Association of Journalists of El Salvador (APES, for its acronym in Spanish) and the National System of Registration of Violations of Rights of Human Rights Defenders in El Salvador by the Institute of Human Rights (IDHUCA, for its acronym in Spanish), the Association for Search and Legal Protection Dr. María Julia Hernández, Foundation for Studies for the Application of Law (FESPAD, for its acronym in Spanish) and the Passionist Social Service (SPASS, for its acronym in Spanish).

The report identified 246 assaults, 64 of them collective (26 per cent); media monitoring recorded 415 assaults. The most affected right is freedom of expression and press (3 out of 4 attacks). The main right violated is the right to privacy, honour and intimacy in 5 out of 10 people. The recorded assaults are stigmatization or discrediting: 3 out of 4 assaults. These have been done by hacking, pioneering, cyberbullying and smearing campaigns. According to the analysis of the register of data on organizations, based on the gender identity of journalists and human rights defenders, cisgender women are the most affected group: 106, that is, 4 out of 10 attacks are against women journalists-defenders. To these are added the six recorded assaults against trans women.

Assaults committed against cisgender women (106) and trans women (6) compared to assaults committed against cisgender men (65) and collective assaults (64) reflect the context in which human rights defenders, activists and journalists work.¹⁸

Some cases of unjustified arrests of human rights defenders registered by Frontline Defenders:

- Adolfo Santo Zetino is a human rights defender, guide and indigenous spiritual leader of the Nahuat Pipil tribe of the municipality of San Antonio del Monte, Sonsonate department.
- Elsa Sandoval García is a human rights and children’s rights defender from the department of Ahuachapán. Under the exception regime, her father, brother, sister, brother-in-law, partner and nephew have been arrested.
- Esmeralda Beatriz Rodríguez de Peña is a human rights defender and community leader from the department of Usulután. Authorities have so far refused to tell her family about the allegations against her.¹⁹

Political landscape

The economic landscape projected by the Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean, of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), projects that, compared to the expected average of the other countries of the isthmus, estimated at 4.1 per cent, El Salvador is expected to reach only 2.5 per cent of economic growth, thus continuing on the path of low growth that has characterized the Salvadoran economy in the last 25 years.²⁰ As indicated, the economic policies pursued have not yielded good results. To this economic scenario and security policies are added the announced intentions of re-election by President Nayib Bukele.

The possible presidential re-election of the current president has raised criticism from some actors, who consider that the Constitution of the Republic prohibits immediate re-election. Article 154 states: “The presidential term shall be five years and shall begin and end on the first day of June, without the person who has exercised the Presidency being able to continue in his functions even one more day”, also 248, where amendments that hinder the alternation of power are expressly prohibited.²¹

However, the current Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of El Salvador issued a ruling in which it enables the presidents of the country to qualify for immediate re-election, giving the green light to Nayib Bukele to a possible second term.²²

The ruling in favour of re-election is also considered rebuttable by some sectors, because, in May 2021, the Legislative Assembly of El Salvador, dismissed the judges of the Constitutional Chamber and the attorney general, taking the institutions with the police.²³



PERVASIVE VIOLENCE

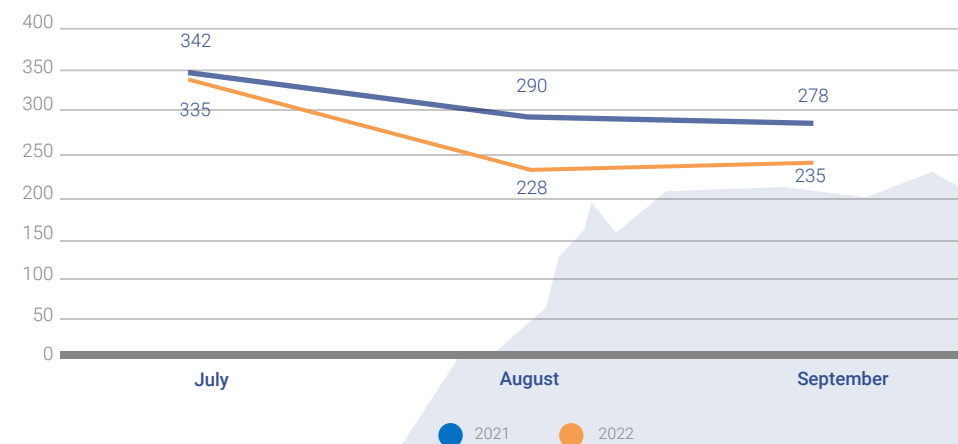
798
Homicides



Registered by the Ministry of Security of the National Police in the third quarter of 2022, assuming a decrease of 14.04 per cent compared to the number of homicides reported in the same period of 2021 (910 cases).²⁴

chart prepared in-house based on the statistics published by the [Statistics Department of the National Police of Honduras](#)

Comparison: number of homicides from July to September 2021 vs July to September 2022



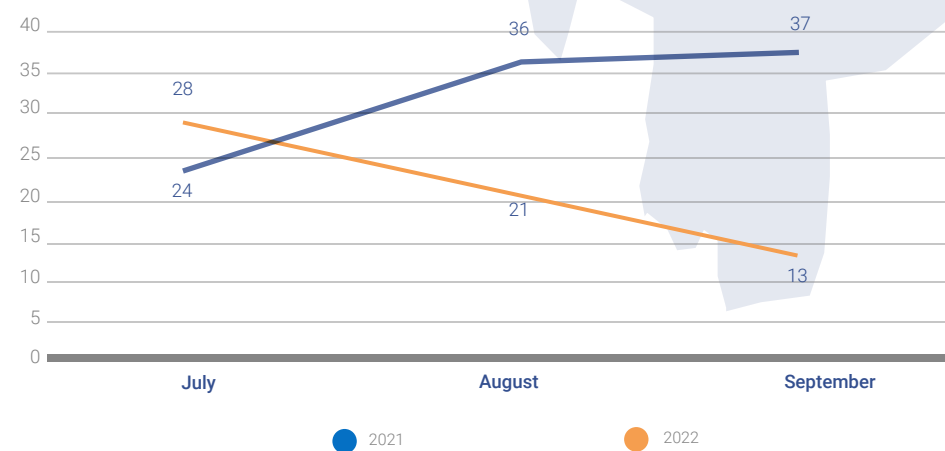
62
Femicides



Registered between July and September 2022, decreasing in 36.08 per cent in comparison to the same period in 2021, when 97 cases were registered.²⁵

Gráfico de elaboración propia con base en las estadísticas oficiales del [Women's Rights Centre](#)

Comparison: femicides from July to September 2022 vs July to September 2021



BALANCE OF MIGRATION POLICIES



66,763
Deported honduran people

from January to August 2022

47,5%
United States
52,5%
Mexico

76,7% Men
55% Women
23,3% Boys
45% Girls
(of the total of minors)

81,3%

more than the same period last year³³



The National Commissioner for Human Rights (CONADEH, for its acronym in Spanish) argued that if the Amnesty law is not expanded on the payment of USD\$236.00, there will be another migration crisis.³⁴



The National Commissioner for Human Rights will make an ad hoc commission to investigate human trafficking cases. Such commission will make recommendations to the Judicial Power and the Public Ministry to guide judicial investigations and get results with due diligence, as dictated by international standards of human rights.³⁵

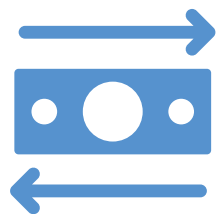
NECESIDADES DE PROTECCIÓN



23,146

Hondurans requested for refugee status in Mexico up to September 2022

An alarming figure in relation to 2020, which closed December with 15,374 asylum seekers, and 2021, which closed December with 36,117 asylum seekers. In the third quarter of 2022, Honduras remains the nationality with the most refugee status applications.²⁶

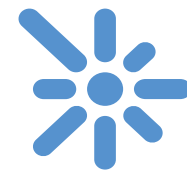


CONADEH pointed out that Honduras has a Migration and Aliens Law that is contrary to international conventions, which states that migration is a human right, however, this Law establishes economic sanctions for people who enter the country illegally. Initially, the fine ranged in 4,000 lempiras, but in June 2022 it increased to about 5,800 lempiras, the equivalent of USD\$236.00.²⁸



There are a large number of migrants who do not perform biometric registration in the INM and who go through alternate points, so it is not ruled out that they could have entered in 2022 through the area of El Paraíso, about 180,000 irregular migrants from different countries, exceeding by 100 per cent the official data (Idem).

Between 1,200 y 1,500 irregular migrants transit through Honduras daily.²⁷



The number of irregular migrants could reach 180,000 in El Paraíso. There is a migration crisis never seen before, since El Paraíso is receiving between 1,200 and 1,500 people a day who enter through the border municipality in Trojes (Idem).



Data from the National Institute of Migration (INM) establish that, since January, some 35,734 irregular migrants made their biometric registration in Trojes, mostly from Cuba (17,360), Venezuela (10,288), Ecuador (2,996) and in smaller numbers from Haiti, Colombia, Bangladesh, the Dominican Republic, India and Afghanistan.²⁹ In addition, it should be noted that for Danlí, 57,532 irregular migrants registered, mostly from Venezuela (31,309), Cuba (13,363), Haiti (3,815), Ecuador (2,827) and in a smaller number from Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Angola, Senegal and Brazil (Idem).



Between 2019 and the third quarter of 2022, 4,000 older adults reported being victims of human rights violations. Of the total elderly, only 5 per cent have the benefit of a monthly retirement or pension, in the vast majority of cases they are retirements or pure subsistence pensions.³⁰

Some of the findings of the report on forced internal displacement 2016-2021, published between September and October 2022:³¹



During 2021, the National Commissioner for Human Rights dealt with 9,784 complaints nationwide, of which, 917 were for forced displacement or risk of displacement, this represents 9% of the cases nationwide. The cases include a total of 2,529 affected persons, of which 942 (37%) were victims of displacement and 1,587 (63%) at risk of displacement, as a consequence of pervasive violence and human rights violations. In some cases, people had to leave the country in search of international protection.



The most vulnerable population groups affected by forced displacement are women, children, the elderly, indigenous and Afro-Honduran peoples, LGTBI persons, human rights defenders and persons with physical disabilities.



On August 18, the Network for the Promotion and defence of Human Rights mentioned in a press release that between 2009 and 2022, around 454 people from the LGBTIQ+ community have died violent deaths in Honduras.³²



Children continue to be one of the sectors of the population most directly or indirectly vulnerable to forced displacement due to violence. 561 people under 18 years of age (284 girls and 277 boys) made up displaced or at risk households in 2021, of which 70% were under 12 years of age and 17% of adolescents.

Honduras

An update on the protection crisis

NATIONAL ANALYSIS

PERVASIVE VIOLENCE

Despite having decreased relative to the same quarter of 2021, homicidal violence remains a serious problem in Honduras. The cumulative number of homicides for the first nine months of 2022 is 2,571, which compared to the first nine months of 2021 (2,541) implies an increase of 1.18 per cent. As of September 28, this year there have been 38 multiple homicides in which 139 people have lost their lives, of these 124 men, 13 women and two people from the LGBTBIQ+ community. Multiple homicides, also called massacres, are violent deaths of more than 3 victims.³⁶

Pervasive violence has also changed over the past three years. According to the historical annual homicide rate, for every 100,000 inhabitants there have been significant percentage drops for this year 2022 in relation to 2020 and 2021, however, the 2022 date is partial until September.³⁷

On the other hand, at the end of August 2022, the National Emergency System (911) registered 25,784 complaints of domestic violence and 41,407 complaints of family abuse, formerly known as family violence (Idem). According to CONADEH, violence against women is a pandemic that must be addressed and that has not been given such timely and due attention by the corresponding authorities. It is estimated that between 2002 and August 2022, about 7,409 women lost their lives in violent circumstances, that is, an average of one victim every 24 hours in the last 20 years and eight months.³⁸ In addition, there are only eight shelters for women victims of violence in the country, despite the fact that the Domestic Violence Law stipulates that there should be shelters in each of the 298 municipalities, reflecting a deficit of 97 per cent (Idem).

As for forced displacement, nearly 250,000 people in Honduras have been forced out from their homes due to violence, a government report says. Despite the high number of internally displaced persons, the bill that would provide them with protection has not yet been approved by the Congress of the Republic. This has forced more than 220,000 people to apply for asylum abroad.³⁹

PROTECTION NEEDS

Attacks on journalists and human rights defenders

So far in 2022, four people linked to the media lost their lives violently. According to the report of the National Commissioner for Human Rights (CONADEH), journalists are victims of internal forced displacement, which has increased since 2016. Among the 66 complaints filed by journalists, 83 per cent are for threats, 6 per cent for attempted homicide, 3 per cent for injuries, 1 per cent for extortion and 6 per cent for the death of relatives or people close to their environment. Among the reported aggressors, 45 per cent are unknown persons, 11 per cent are gangs, 10 per cent are known persons, 5 per cent are neighbours, 3 per cent are relatives, 3 per cent are justice operators, 2 per cent are members of the police and 2 per cent are criminal groups⁴⁰. In addition, the only office in Honduras to investigate violence against journalists and protect this vulnerable sector is the Public Prosecutor's Office Special Committee for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, Journalists, Social Communicators and Justice Operators (FEPRODD-HH, for its acronym in Spanish). However, they have no legal competence to investigate cases of homicides or murders, this places them in scenarios of high impunity.

Impunity has also been a serious problem in recent history, from 1988 to the third quarter of 2022, the Honduran State was subjected to sentencing in 17 contentious cases by the IACHR. Currently 14 cases are in compliance stage and three have already been archived. In addition, in 13 of the judgments still pending there are 117 reparation measures issued by the IACHR of which 34 are complied with, 4 partially complied with and 76 pending compliance.⁴¹

The Inter-American Court of Human Rights, in its visit to Honduras, stressed the mandates and recommendations for the State of Honduras in matters of impunity:⁴²

- The non-repetition of acts of violence and impunity: only 10 per cent were partially complied with, while 90 per cent are pending.
- Order the release of persons arbitrarily detained, return to their homes those who have been forcibly displaced, and return to work. Also, in the cancellation of judicial, administrative, criminal or police records and the return, demarcation and titling of indigenous property territory, the Honduran State has 72 per cent pending compliance, since so far it has partially complied with 14 per cent and has barely fully complied with the remaining 14 per cent.
- In rehabilitation, in medical and psychological care for victims of human rights violations, the Honduran State complied with 40 per cent.
- In economic compensation for the damages caused by the violations committed, the Honduran State complied with 62 per cent, partially complied with 3 per cent and 35 per cent are pending compliance.

Political landscape

The political landscape of the third quarter of 2022 is crossed by the dispute within the judiciary power of Honduras, since in January 2023 there will be elections to elect the judges who will govern the Supreme Court of Justice. Unlike the three previous nomination and election processes that occurred in 2001-2002, 2008-2009 and 2015-2016, the seven organizations that make up the Nominating Board do not have the power to submit their own lists with applicants, preventing them from becoming a "judge and party". Although there are 30,780 legal professionals enrolled in the Honduran Bar Association (CAH, for its acronym in Spanish), only 1,147 of them (3.73 per cent) have a notary exequatur, a discriminatory requirement for those who aspire to occupy the highest magistratures of the Judiciary power⁴³.

The election of magistrates to the Supreme Court of Justice is very relevant because it would depend on several issues concerning the approval and exercise of rights. Currently, the Supreme Court of Justice has among the cases to be resolved, issues such as abortion, same-sex marriage and other human rights issues. In addition, it plays an important role against corruption because it has competence in cases involving political actors.⁴⁴



VIOLENCIA GENERALIZADA



17,6
Homicides

per 100,000 inhabitants by September 2022. It showed an increase of 10.2 per cent compared to the September 2021 rate.⁴⁵



511
Violent deaths of women

for causes associated with criminal acts from January to September 2022, presented an increase of 11.82 per cent compared to the same period of the previous year.⁴⁶



11,095
Reports for extortion to the PNC

From January to September 2022
Increased in 16.84 per cent in comparison the same period last year.



4,179
Activated Alba-Keneth alerts

Of which 43 per cent were deactivated
Number of Alba-Keneth alerts activated and deactivated, January to September 2022.⁴⁷



990
Activated Isabel-Claudina alerts

From January to June 2022. There was a decrease of 6% in comparison to the same period last year.
Activated Isabel-Claudina alerts, January to June 2022.

6,663
Medical recognitions to sex crimes

Conducted by the National Institute of Forensic Sciences from January to September 2022, of which 91% were made in women and girls.⁴⁸

PROTECTION NEEDS

710
New asylum applications

submitted in Guatemala from January to September.⁴⁹



1,472
Asylum seekers living in the country

6,708
Refugees living in the country

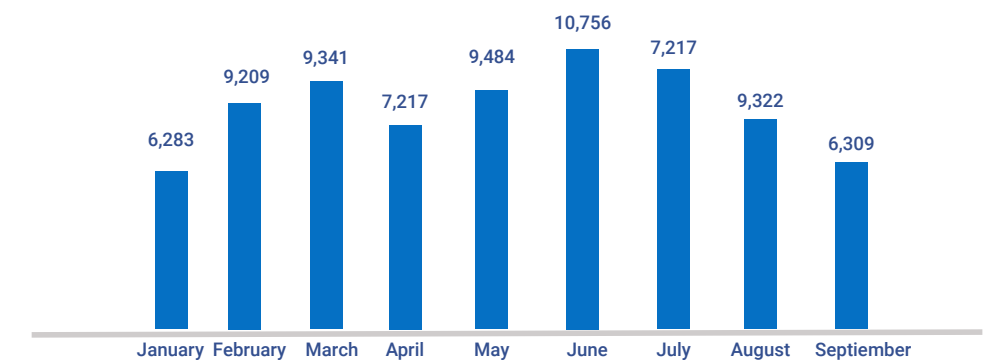
BALANCE OF MIGRATION POLICIES



74,972
deported people
from January to September 2022

90.16%
More than the same period last year⁵⁰

Deported people, January to September 2022



Source: based on the Human mobility Information Management initiative in the Northern Triangle, September 2022.

Guatemala

An update on the protection crisis

NATIONAL ANALYSIS

PERVASIVE VIOLENCE

The rate of crimes against persons³ for August 2022 was 38 complaints per 100,000 inhabitants, 8 per cent less than the rate reported in the same period of the previous year,⁵¹ however the upward trend in homicides has continued throughout the year. The National Institute of Forensic Sciences (INACIF), from January to September, performed 3,246 necropsies for deaths associated with criminal acts, presenting an increase of 10 per cent compared to the same period of the previous year.⁵²

The departments with the highest number of homicides in the country, until August, were: Guatemala, which presented a monthly average of 153 homicides of men and 19 of women; Escuintla, with an average of 26 men and 2 women; and Izabal, with an average of 7 men and 1 woman, according to data reported by the National Civil Police.⁵³ It should be noted that, at the national level, an average of 12 homicides are reported daily.⁵⁴

Another crime that has remained on the rise is **extortion**. For August 2022, it set a rate of 81.50 complaints of extortion per 100,000 inhabitants with an increase of 1 per cent compared to the same period of the previous year.⁵⁵

According to the report “Institutional Attention to Extortion Crimes in Guatemala” of the National Economic Research Centre (CIEN, for its acronym in Spanish), the increase in extortion is mostly related to the lack of control in prisons (90 per cent of extortion calls are known to come from prisons), due to overcrowding, lack of operational personnel and insufficient internal control measures to avoid corruption.⁵⁶ In Guatemala, there are 24,833 persons deprived of their liberty in 22 prisons that have a capacity for 6,842 persons, with an occupancy rate of 363 per cent.⁵⁷

In relation to **violence against women**, the Public Prosecutor’s Office (MP, for its acronym in Spanish) files an average of 120 complaints a day for violence against women.⁵⁸ However, last year alone the MP dismissed 82 per cent of the cases it received and of the 27,695 cases that have entered June 2022 only 59 per cent are under investigation. In addition, 4 per cent of the cases that entered the MP filed an indictment in the relevant courts against the person or persons responsible for violence against women.⁵⁹

Another important aspect to highlight relates to the increase in alerts for missing women. On average, 5 missing women are reported per day and approximately 90 per cent of cases are located, of these 3 per cent are located lifeless. Regarding the circumstances of disappearance, in 46 per cent of cases the MP classifies them as another type of violence, 14 per cent personal reasons, 14 per cent is linked to a crime, 13 per cent is not indicated, 6 per cent is related to an accident and 6 per cent due to disability conditions.⁶⁰ Specifically, it is important to mention human trafficking, forced gang recruitment, migration and forced displacement as causes.⁶¹

From January to September 2022, the National Institute of Forensic Sciences (INACIF) conducted 813 medical evaluations for injuries compatible with maltreatment of minors under 19 years of age, 40 per cent went to boys and 60 per cent to girls. In addition, 227 medical

evaluations were performed for injuries with firearms, 76 per cent was to boys and 24 per cent to girls and 83 injuries with knives, of which 80 per cent were to boys and 20 per cent to girls.⁶²

The medical examinations for sexual crimes carried out by INACIF reflect the situation of vulnerability in which girls and adolescents find themselves, since, from January to September, of the 4,676 evaluations carried out on minors under 19 years of age, 91 per cent were carried out on girls and adolescents.⁶³ In addition, in the same period, there were 51,888 births to children whose mothers are between 10 and 19 years old, 3 per cent of these cases are to girls between 10 and 14 years old.⁶⁴

PROTECTION NEEDS

According to the Global Humanitarian Overview, in Guatemala there are 3.8 million people in need and the humanitarian response plan is covered by 27 per cent, so several sectors still do not have funding. In the country, the Human Development Index registered an eight-year decline, as indicators of health and quality of life worsened significantly. In addition, approximately a quarter of the population requires food assistance, added to the high rate of migration and displacement, poverty and income decline, among others.⁶⁵

By August, food products suffered an inflation of 13.30 per cent, leaving the price of the basic food basket at 3,454 quetzales (approximately \$USD443).⁶⁶ In this regard, until September 2022, the Secretary of Food and Nutrition Security reported 16,611 cases of acute malnutrition and 46 cases of children under 5 years of age who died from acute malnutrition.⁶⁷ In addition, according to FAO-WFP, in its report “Hunger Hotspots”, Guatemala ranks 17th among the countries that will face significant deterioration in relation to food insecurity. They estimate that, from October 2022 to February 2023, 3.2 million Guatemalans face food insecurity (19 per cent of the population), an increase of 2.5 million people compared to the same period of the previous year.⁶⁸

Another situation to highlight is the response to natural disasters: the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction reported 3,580,980 people affected and 43 dead during the rainy season. In addition, it reported 12 thousand 646 people at risk, 8 thousand 15 affected, 14 thousand 476 evacuated, 41 thousand 672 attended, 2 thousand 219 sheltered, 6 missing and 23 injured, as well as multiple damages to homes and roads.⁶⁹ However, only about 20 per cent of the rainy season emergency budget has been implemented at the government level.⁷⁰ These situations may aggravate the current humanitarian crises.⁷¹

In fiscal year 2022 (October 2021 to September 2022), 231,565 Guatemalans were detained at the southern border of the United States, of whom 60,780 were unaccompanied children.⁷² For human traffickers, this has become a lucrative business involving interconnected criminal structures in the region.⁷³ A Guatemalan person can pay from 5,000 to 15,000 dollars for the transfer, however, these trips are not always safe, since the routes and conditions in which people are transported are increasingly dangerous.⁷⁴ In Guatemala, for its part, efforts have been intensified to capture groups involved in human trafficking, many of them allegedly responsible for the tragedies involving migrants in Mexico and the United States.⁷⁵ In addition, the country has deported, until August, 9,019 people on the move who did not have the necessary documentation to enter the country, most of them Venezuelans, Haitians and Hondurans seeking to reach the United States.⁷⁶



VIOLENCIA GENERALIZADA

10,841
Homicides
Registered in the third quarter of 2022. (2% reduction regarding the previous quarter).

247
Feminicides
Registered in the third quarter of 2022. (7% increase regarding the previous quarter).

2,472
extortions
registered in the third quarter of 2022. (21% reduction regarding the previous quarter).

6,999
Registries for crimes against personal freedom
In the third quarter of 2022. (3% increase regarding the previous quarter).

23,301
Registries of sexual and gender-based violence
In the third quarter of 2022. (13% reduction regarding the previous quarter).

PROTECTION NEEDS

3,411
Internally displaced persons
In the third quarter of 2022. (348% increase regarding the previous quarter) only corresponding to July.

214
Deaths and disappearances
Of migrants in the Migration routes during the third quarter of 2022. (18\$ decrease regarding the previous quarter)

85,309
Assistances to migrants
by Beta Groups during the third quarter of 2022. (2% increase regarding the previous quarter).

57,384
Repatriation events of Mexican people
Where support from federal programs was accepted during the third quarter of 2022. (9% decrease regarding the previous quarter).

In the United States
631,796
Apprehensions of migrant people
In the southern border with Mexico in the third quarter of 2022. (9% decrease than

226,667
Expulsions due to Title 42
Corresponding to 36% of general apprehensions (25% decrease regarding the previous quarter).

405,129
Withdrawal due to Title 8
Corresponding to 64% of general apprehensions (6% increase regarding the previous quarter).

In Mexico
61,657
repatriations of Mexican people from the US
in the third quarter of 2022. (20% reduction regarding the previous quarter)

27,979
Requests for refugee status in México

24,976
Deportations of foreigners
By the Migration authority in the third quarter of 2022. (16% reduction regarding the previous quarter).

118,539
Presentations of foreign people to the Migration authority
During the third quarter of 2022. (25% increase regarding the previous quarter).

In NCA
33,866
Returnees to NCA from Mexico and the US
during July and August 2022. (20% reduction regarding the previous two months).

Mexico

An update on the protection crisis

NATIONAL ANALYSIS

PERVASIVE VIOLENCE

During the first six months of this year, 15 journalists and people working on communication have been killed in Mexico. According to the international organization Article 19, cases of lethal violence, displacement, stigmatization and online violence stand out for their severity and increase. This same organization highlights that, in the first semester, there were 331 attacks against this population, compared to the first semester of 2016, during the six-year term of Enrique Peña Nieto, registering 218 attacks, that is, an increase of 51.83 per cent.⁷⁷

However, homicidal violence is not limited to certain populations. For example, organizations and experts drew attention to the wave of insecurity and violence in the state of Nuevo León, reflected in 804 intentional homicides in the first seven months of 2022.⁷⁸ However, the figures are not limited to one entity, in the country approximately 100 murders are committed daily, 33,000 during the current Administration.⁷⁹

During the weekend of September 23 to 25, the Executive Secretariat of the National Public Security System (SESNSP, for its acronym in Spanish) announced in its technical report that 251 violent deaths were reported in the country, particularly in the State of Mexico, Guanajuato, Jalisco and Nuevo León.⁸⁰ According to the Enkoll consultant, in a study carried out for EL PAÍS and W Radio, 45 per cent of people surveyed point to insecurity as their main concern.⁸¹

For its part, according to the data of the National Survey of Urban Public Security carried out by the National Institute of Geography and Informatics (INEGI, for its acronym in Spanish), the municipality of Fresnillo, Zacatecas, leads the perception of insecurity at the national level, with 97 per cent of its inhabitants stating that they feel insecure. This situation is no less if we consider that, since November 2021, military personnel and elements of the National Guard began to arrive in the entity as part of the security strategy of the Federal Government.⁸²

This is similar to what happens in Baja California, where the National Guard reinforced its presence with 500 elements that will be incorporated into those already present in the entity after the violent events that occurred in August when vehicles were burned in the entity,⁸³ to which the murders in synchronized attacks by organized crime in Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua were added.

Faced with the government's strategy, the acting United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Nada Al-Nashif, expressed concern over the Mexican Congress' decision to transfer control of the National Guard to the Ministry of National Defence in early September.⁸⁴

PROTECTION NEEDS

According to data from the Mexican Commission for the defence and Promotion of Human Rights (CMDPDH, for its acronym in Spanish) during July 2022, at least two massive events of internal displacement due to violence occurred in Mexico, affecting approximately 850 families (3,396 people) from the municipalities of Frontera Comalapa and La Trinitaria, Chiapas. The cause of the displacements was the violence generated by the entry of armed groups into these municipalities and the clashes between them and the public security forces.

On the other hand, 15 people belonging to two families were forced to move to Chuchiltón, municipality of Larráinzar, Chiapas, after receiving threats for not having paid the fine imposed in their community for the celebration of a religious festival (families profess another religion).

CMDPDH reported that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) made a working visit to Chiapas indigenous communities to supervise the implementation of precautionary measures granted in 2017 and 2018 in favour of Tsotsil indigenous families from 22 communities in the municipalities of Chalchihuitán, Chenalhó and Aldama, due, among other causes, to forced displacement.

Finally, this organization also reported that, after the acts of violence alleged in mid-June in the Mercado del Norte in San Cristóbal de Las Casas, Chiapas, thousands of indigenous people from Zinacantán had to donate the businesses they had in place and return to their municipality of origin.⁸⁵

In this regard, it is important to note that, after her official visit to Mexico at the beginning of September, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights of internally displaced persons, Cecilia Jimenez-Damary, spoke and emphasized the collective impacts of this problem against indigenous peoples and pointed out that a law to protect the human rights of internally displaced persons is urgent.⁸⁶

The Congress of Zacatecas approved in June the Law for the Prevention and Attention to Internal Forced Displacement in response to the crisis of displaced people in the entity, which according to the local deputy of the PT Xerardo Ramírez, has affected more than 10,000 people in 18 of its municipalities.⁸⁷

Meanwhile, migrants from other countries face educational lag problems due to their migration process and the Covid-19 pandemic. Among them, 80 per cent of 125 girls, boys and adolescents, between 3 and 17 years old, receive classes within the Integrative Centre for Migrants (CIM, for its acronym in Spanish) Leona Vicario, as part of the National Council for Educational Development (CONAFE) and the Young Community Builders program. However, it is important to note that although the shelter is staffed by people from Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Haiti, there are also internally displaced persons from Guerrero and Michoacán.⁸⁸



An update on the protection crisis

BALANCE OF MIGRATION POLICIES

At the end of September, as part of its actions, the National Institute of Migration (INM) reports the arrest in a single day of 3,263 migrants from 50 countries in 20 entities. Particularly in: Chiapas 1,807; Mexico City, 238; Tabasco, 172; Nuevo León, 171; Oaxaca, 164; Veracruz, 126; Coahuila, 115; Quintana Roo, 103; Baja California, 89; Puebla, 58; State of Mexico, 54; Tamaulipas, 34; Sinaloa, 31; Chihuahua, 27; San Luis Potosí, 25; Hidalgo, 18; Querétaro, 15; Jalisco, seven; Sinaloa, seven; and Yucatán two.⁸⁹

On June 30, the U.S. Supreme Court announced that the federal court that issued the provisional suspension of the termination of the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) had no jurisdiction to do so.⁹⁰ Subsequently, on August 8, the federal court revoked the suspension⁹¹ and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced that no more people would be enrolled in the program.⁹²

In mid-July, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced an update to its policy on separating migrant families, which seeks to identify those who care for children and adolescents and people with disabilities, so that, if detained, they are granted, among other things, access to regular visits.⁹³ In addition, it reported that it was developing a programme to provide identification cards to migrants to facilitate their electronic access to information about their cases.⁹⁴

On June 10, a federal judge struck down a DHS memorandum outlining new immigration enforcement priorities, particularly with respect to lowering the priority of deporting people who are not considered a threat to national security or public safety.⁹⁵ Subsequently, on 21 July, the Supreme Court agreed to hear the arguments of the parties involved in November 2022, but did not suspend the revocation, so those priorities could not be implemented until the Court issued a decision.

On April 1, the Biden administration announced the effective termination of "Title 42" by the end of May 2022.⁹⁶ However, a judge kept it in force, so the federal government filed an appeal at the end of July 2022.⁹⁷ En este contexto, en septiembre de 2022 se supo que la administración Biden. In this context, in September 2022 it was known that the Biden administration requested Mexico to accept more migrants from Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela expelled under Title 42.⁹⁸



BALANCE OF MIGRATION POLICIES

483

Requests for refugee status



According to the National Office for Refugee Assistance between January and August 2022. This number of applications represents an increase of 33.6 per cent compared to the same period of 2021.

Countries of origin

It is worth highlighting the participation of people from 14 different countries of origin among these requests, highlighting the magnitude of the applications of people of Nicaraguan nationality (29 per cent), Colombian (26 per cent), Venezuelan (22 per cent), Cuban (12 per cent) and Salvadoran (4 per cent).¹⁰⁰

Data from the National Office for Refugee Assistance (ONPAR)

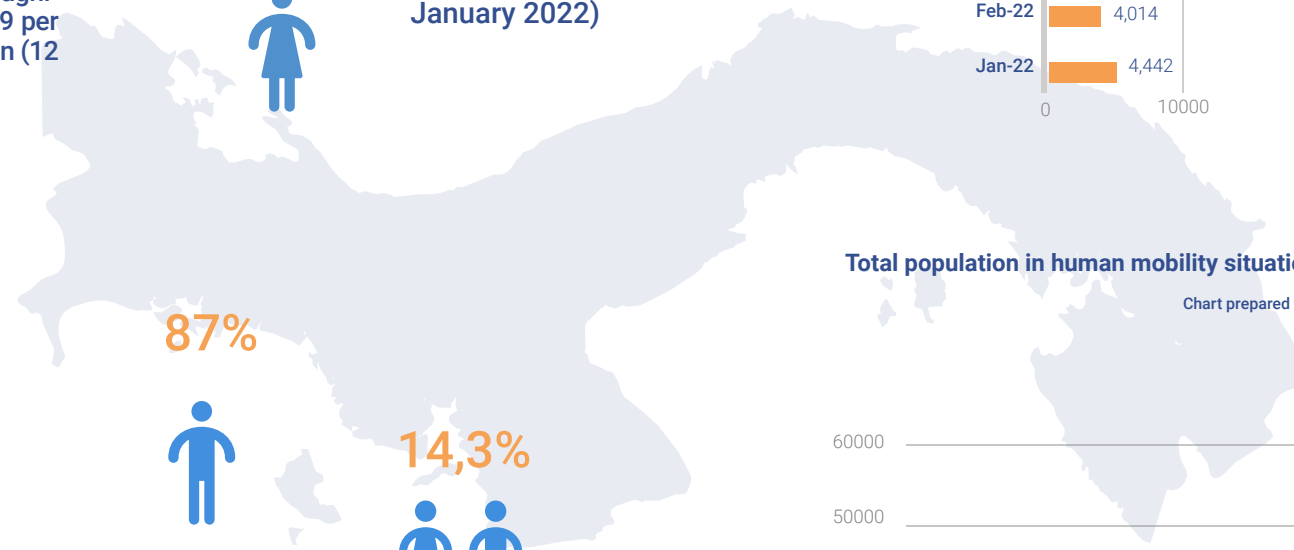
54,2%



435

Requests for refugee status have not been admitted for paperwork, in contrast to only two requests that were admitted for paperwork. (between May and January 2022)

46,8%



87%



14,3%



(of the total of minors)

13%



151,582



Migrants in an irregular situation entered through Darien between January and September 2022

Un 85,7% of this population in situation of human mobility was adult and 14.3% children and adolescents.⁹⁹

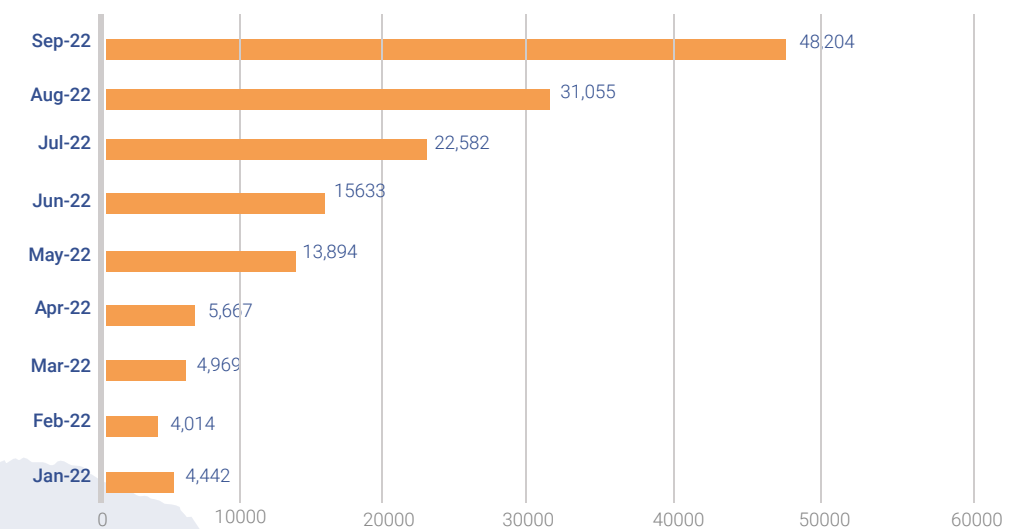
Countries of origin

Regarding the characterization of this migratory flow in relation to nationality, approximately 71 per cent were of Venezuelan nationality, 5.6 per cent Haitian, 4.4 per cent Ecuadorian, 2.9 per cent Cuban and 2 per cent Colombian.

Records from the National Migration Service

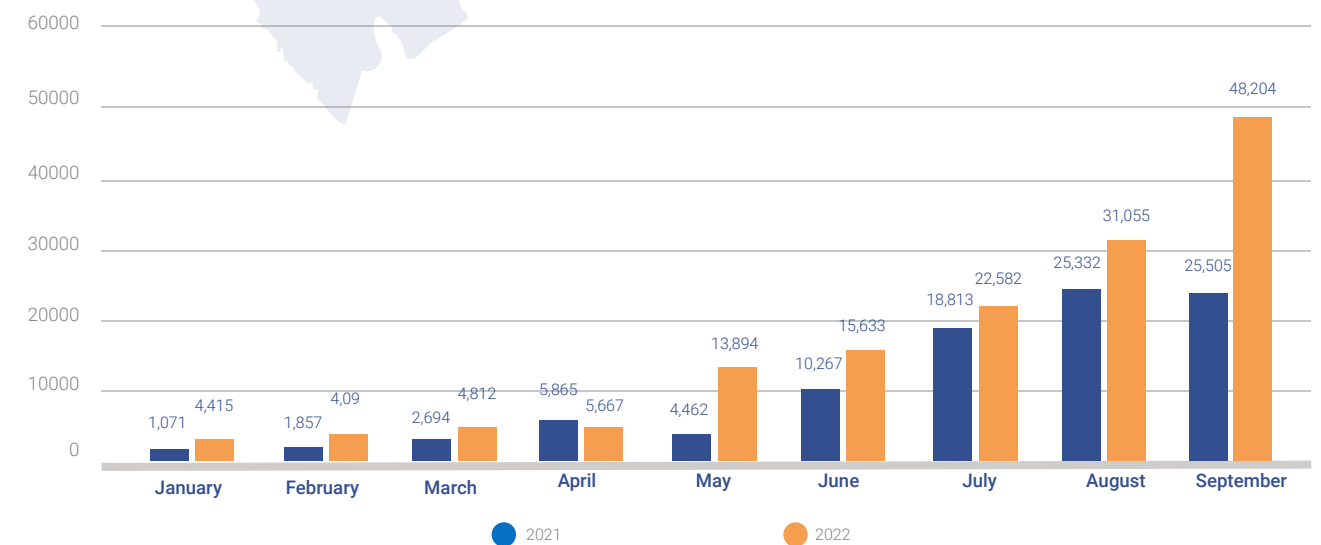
Total population in human mobility situation through Darien – January to September 2022

Chart prepared in-house base don oficial statistics from the [National Migration Service](#)



Total population in human mobility situation through Darien – January – September 2021 vs January – September 2022

Chart prepared in-house base don oficial statistics from the [National Migration Service](#)



Panama

An update on the protection crisis

NATIONAL ANALYSIS

BALANCE OF MIGRATION POLICIES

151,582 people in a situation of human mobility crossed the Darien border between January and September 2022, representing an increase of 13.35 per cent compared to the total flow recorded in 2021 to two months by the end of the year. Data from this period implies an increase of 45 per cent compared to the same period last year, when 70,361 people crossed this border point. It should be noted that September 2022 historically represents the month in which more migrants have transited through the Darien (48,204) since official statistics were prepared.¹⁰¹

Migrants of Venezuelan nationality continue to account for more than 50 per cent of these mixed movements, with a growing trend in September, and with a 104 per cent increase in this migratory flow compared to the previous month. This evolution is even more drastic with the data from the beginning of the year, where only 1,134 migrants of Venezuelan nationality had transited through the Darien in January. This figure is especially relevant considering that the migratory flow through this border point tends to increase in the months corresponding to the dry season (between December and April).¹⁰²

Migrants of Venezuelan nationality have exceeded migrants of Cuban and Haitian nationality with remarkable distances as the largest population within the mixed movements that take place in the Darien. It is no coincidence that the number of migrants of Venezuelan nationality has gradually increased throughout 2022. There seems to be a correlation between the adoption of visas for people of this nationality with their presence on routes to reach the United States irregularly. Since 2017 Panama, Honduras and Guatemala have required visas for Venezuelans and since January 2022 Mexico, Costa Rica and Belize have joined those countries. Many Venezuelans interviewed by Human Rights Watch said they passed through the Darien Gap because these visa requirements have limited their ability to take safer routes to seek protection in the United States.¹⁰³

It should be noted that, according to the Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants (R4V), in August 2022 it is estimated that more than 6.8 million Venezuelans have fled in successive waves of the political, social and economic crisis that has shaken their country, with a significant increase in the last year. Eighty-four point four (84.4) per cent of this population has been hosted in countries of the region, of which approximately 2.5 million have settled in Colombia, the main host country.¹⁰⁴

On the other hand, there has been an increase of 47 per cent of unaccompanied migrant minors (383) between January and July 2022 compared to the same period in 2021. Several factors explain this migratory profile, such as climatic conditions: the flood of rivers causes mothers and fathers to be injured and have to delegate to other adults the care of young children, who are forced to advance in the journey.¹⁰⁵

Likewise, statelessness cases have also been observed, people who do not have a nationality and do not have the recognition, or therefore the protection, of the laws of any State. In 2021, one case of statelessness was recorded and from January to July 2022, five cases have been detected. Sometimes they are children whose relatives have not been able to recognize them in their countries of origin, as well as children born during the journey.¹⁰⁶

Official figures from the National Migration Service report the transit of 21,570 migrant children and adolescents between January and September this year. It is estimated that 40 per cent of minors crossing the Darien gap are under the age of five, belonging to more than 70 different nationalities.¹⁰⁷

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

The numbers of migrants in transit in an irregular situation through the Darien reported in the period covered by this bulletin already exceed the historical record of last year. For some organizations such as Human Rights Watch and the Washington Office on Latin American Affairs (WOLA), this increase means a greater exposure of migrants to protection risks, such as gender-based sexual violence at a border where there are few humanitarian assistance services and access to justice. Recently, the Darien Gap was considered a natural barrier that prevented irregular migration. For example, in 2011 only 283 people took this route; in 2022 it is estimated that 283 people pass through this border every 17 hours.¹⁰⁸

The director of the National Border Service recently indicated that migrants crossing this border are guided by human traffickers from Colombia and it is these same people who assault them when they find themselves in the middle of the road inside the Darienite jungle. As of September, this year, 18 bodies of migrants were found on this route: 5 died by immersion and in the case of the other 13 people, the reason for their death is unknown.¹⁰⁹

In this regard, the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR) in Panama has received information on missing migrants on the migratory route of the Darien jungle. On the other hand, the Committee on Enforced Disappearances has received cases of possible disappearances of migrants allegedly committed by criminal groups, the lack of investigation into them and the presence of mass graves of unidentified migrants in the Darien jungle.¹¹⁰ This information has been denied by the National Border Service of Panama, through a statement in which it denied information circulating on social networks about the discovery of an alleged mass grave with 18 citizens of Venezuela.¹¹¹

Human Rights Officers from the Office of the Ombudsman and members of UNHCR undertook a tour of the transit communities of Bajo Chiquito and Canaán Membrillo in the province of Darién to guarantee and promote the human rights of migrants, especially those in the most vulnerable situations such as children, adolescents, women and the elderly.¹¹²



Regional Analysis

An update on the protection crisis

PERVASIVE VIOLENCE

The absence of official figures on homicides in El Salvador prevents us from knowing the evolution of this crime and its impact on the population.¹¹³

On the other hand, the country has not officially disseminated records on femicides for more than 6 months.¹¹⁴ Similarly, the dissolution, by the Legislative Assembly, of the Directorate General of Statistics and Censuses (Digestyc, for its acronym in Spanish), one of the key institutions for collecting socio-demographic data that make it possible to evaluate public policies, makes it more difficult to understand the main factors that affect pervasive violence. Although the transition of its functions to the Central Reserve Bank is yet to be made, experts consulted by the El Faro newspaper fear that moving the management to an institution with different objectives could marginalize from its priorities the collection of data and other reliable information.¹¹⁵

Likewise, in Honduras, the National Institute of Forensic Sciences recorded 2,861 homicides between January and August 2022, representing an increase of 10.3 per cent compared to the same period in 2021. The levels of femicides have also followed this same trend: 401 femicides have been recorded between January and August of this year, representing an increase of 4.4 per cent compared to the same interval last year.¹¹⁶

The Observatory of Violence of the National Autonomous University of Honduras highlighted the death of 127 people in multiple homicides between January and August 2022, representing an increase of 22.1 per cent compared to the same period last year. The departments of Cortés, Francisco Morazán and Santa Bárbara, north, centre and west of the country, are the regions with the most victims and cases of multiple homicides in 2022. Regarding the characterization of people victims of violence, this institution emphasizes that young people “without resources and living in especially violent areas, controlled by gangs and criminal groups, such as drug trafficking” are the most affected population.¹¹⁷

On the other hand, in the first nine months of this year the country has counted 211 femicides, which means a decrease of 14.6 per cent compared to the same period of 2021. Up to 28.4 per cent of these femicides the age of the victims could not be determined.¹¹⁸

Regarding Mexico, between January and September of this year, the country recorded 23,351 homicides, a reduction of 8.1 per cent compared to the same period last year. The Ministry of Security said September was the least violent month of the past five years despite an increase of 26 homicides from August to September 2022. There are an average of 86 homicides. According to the

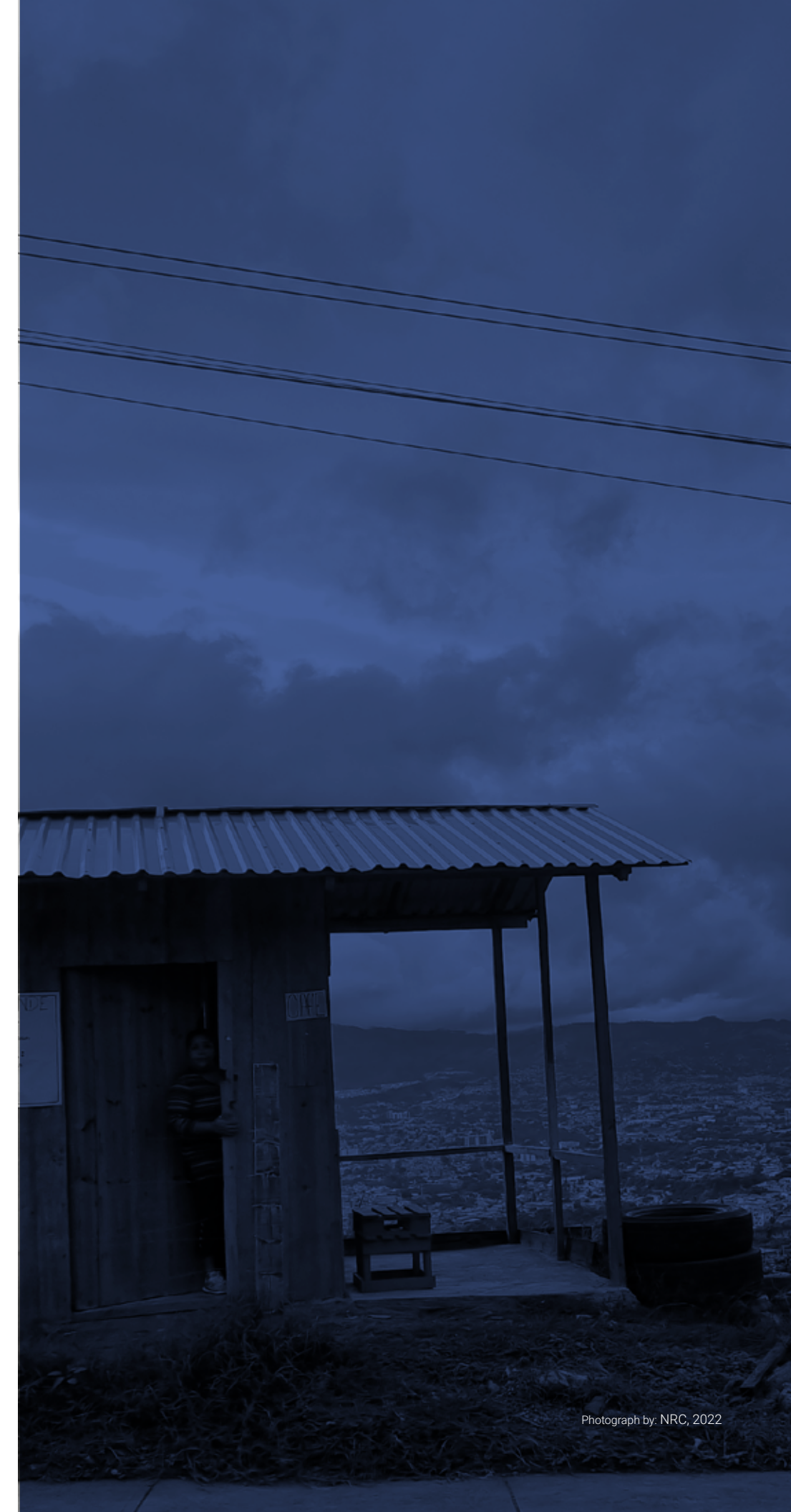
National Urban Public Safety Survey conducted by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography, 67.4 per cent of the population considers it unsafe to live in their city.¹²⁰ In addition, in the first nine months 695 femicides were recorded, representing a reduction of 8.8 per cent compared to the same period in 2021. Although these figures could represent a small progress, it must be considered that the cases of femicides have added two consecutive months to the increase.

PROTECTION NEEDS

Overall inflation increased between 7.5 per cent and 11.5 per cent year-on-year and food inflation between 13.5 per cent and 17.1 per cent in the countries of the region during September. The persistence of high inflation will continue to limit the purchasing power of the most vulnerable households. However, between October this year and January 2023, a seasonal improvement in the food security conditions of poor households in rural and urban areas is expected due to crop outflows, a slight decrease in food prices and a seasonal increase in income.¹²¹

On the other hand, the intense rains due to depressions and tropical waves of the season that occurred in Honduras at the end of September resulted in 16 deaths and more than 80,000 people affected (19,500 families), of which 17,000 were evacuated. Flooding in the western lowlands hampered access and threatened the main maize crop, which ends in September, and the second maize planting and growing season.¹²²

In Guatemala, storm Julia caused heavy rains, floods and landslides that affected at the beginning of October particularly different areas in the Northern Transverse Strip and the Polochic area. The subsistence farmers in these areas were the most affected, since the corn crops were already drying on the land (in double) or were already in the process of drying in their homes where they do not have adequate spaces for post-harvest management. The loss of crops will cause households not to have grain reserves for consumption in the following months, so they will have to buy at prices well above average.¹²³



BALANCE OF MIGRATION POLICIES

Deportations from the United States and Mexico

164,854 people were deported to the countries of Northern Central America between January and September 2022, representing an increase of 93.5 per cent compared to the same period last year. With regard to the sociodemographic characterization of this deported population, 80.8 per cent were adults and 19.2 per cent were children and adolescents. Among the adult population, 73.7 per cent were men and 26.3 per cent were women. Among the population under the age of 18, 57.1 per cent were boys and 42.9 per cent were girls.¹²⁴

In addition, 52.7 per cent of the population was deported from Mexico and 46.9 per cent from the United States. The largest percentage increase in the deported population compared to the same time interval in 2021 has been experienced by El Salvador with 150.3 per cent, followed by Honduras (90.3 per cent) and Guatemala (90.2 per cent).¹²⁵

Title 42

A federal judge ruled Tuesday that the U.S. government cannot use Title 42 to block asylum-seeking migrants from entering its land borders. This measure has made it possible to expel single adults and families who cross without authorization the land borders of the United States to stop the advance of the virus. However, the Department of Homeland Security filed a motion requesting that the decision be suspended until midnight on December 21, stressing that it would be a measure to make “an orderly transition to new policies at the border.” This ruling is based on a lawsuit filed in January by the American Civil Liberties Union, which accuses the Department of Homeland Security and Border Patrol of “summary expulsion” of vulnerable families seeking asylum who show no signs of Covid-19 infection. This migration policy has allowed the expulsion of more than 2.5 million migrants since its inception in 2020.¹²⁶

It should be noted that the number of migrants from Venezuela, Cuba or Nicaragua trying to cross the land border increased by 149 per cent compared to October 2021, while that of those from Mexico and Northern Central America have decreased by 12 per cent according to official data.¹²⁷

The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention tried to remove Title 42 in May this year. However, a federal judge, in a lawsuit filed by Republican state attorneys general, forced the policy to continue. The Biden administration, in order to finalize this measure, even convinced Mexico to expand the use of Title 42 to allow the expulsions of Venezuelan migrants at the southern border since October 12, 2022.¹²⁸

Under this Title 42 extension, migrants of Venezuelan nationality who enter the United States irregularly will be immediately returned to Mexico. It also proposes a series of operations to prevent human trafficking and offer security assistance to support in addressing the migratory challenges in the Darien Gap. This new process includes the possibility that up to 24,000 people of Venezuelan nationality can safely and legally migrate to the United States fulfilling a series of requirements.¹²⁹

Requirements to qualify for the New Immigration Control Process for Venezuelans

1. Have a sponsor in the United States to provide financial and other support.
2. Approve rigorous national security and public safety biometric and biographic checks and screenings.
3. Complete vaccination and other public health requirements.

* Venezuelans approved through this process will be authorized, on a case-by-case basis, to travel to the United States by air directly to an inland port of entry, thereby relieving pressure at the border. Once in the United States, they will be eligible to apply for employment authorization.

Individuals will not be eligible if they:

- Were deported from the United States within the last five years.
- Have crossed without authorization through ports of entry after the date of this announcement (October 12).
- Have entered Mexico or Panama irregularly after October 12, 2022, or are permanent residents or dual citizens of any country other than Venezuela, or currently have refugee status in any other country.
- Have not completed vaccinations and other public health requirements.

Although it is difficult to predict what the migration trend will be once Title 42 is finalized, two scenarios may occur:¹³⁰

- a) In the short term, the number of migrants seeking protection arriving at the southern border of the United States increases. Many of these people are in Mexico waiting to hear this news to resume their migratory route.
- b) Since rapid Title 42 removals will no longer make it possible to repeat attempts to cross without consequence for migrants who do not apply for asylum, the numbers could decline rapidly after an initial increase.

It should be noted that due to this situation, the countries of the region have not discussed a lasting solution for migrants who have been stranded between Panama and the United States. This is especially relevant considering that Mexico only receives migrants expelled with a voluntary departure office, which invites them to leave the country within 15 days.¹³¹



An update on the protection crisis

Asylum applications in Mexico

Between January and September of this year, 86,621 applications for refugee status were registered in Mexico, representing a 3 per cent reduction compared to the same period last year. The main nationalities of asylum seekers are: Honduran (26.7 per cent), Cuban (16.2 per cent), Haitian (13.4 per cent), Venezuelan (10 per cent), Nicaraguan (9 per cent), Salvadoran (6.8 per cent), Guatemalan (4.4 per cent), Salvadoran (2.1 per cent), Guatemalan (4.4 per cent), Brazil (2.1 per cent).¹³²

It should be noted that the Mexican Commission for Refugee Aid has recognized 94 per cent of the 8,665 applications for refugee status it has received from Venezuelan citizens.¹³³

In addition, asylum applications from Venezuelan migrants increased significantly in the second half of October due to changes in United States immigration policies: from August to September only 383 applications were registered and in October 1,545 were reached, representing an increase of 300 per cent in a month.¹³⁴

Risks to the protection of persons in human mobility situations

From 1 January to 16 November, 35 dead and missing migrants were reported in the Darien Gap, including 12 women, 11 men and 12 children. It should be noted that in the last three years 152 migrants in an irregular situation have been registered as dead and missing at this border point.¹³⁵

The Mixed Migration Centre conducted face-to-face interviews between July 4 and September 4 with 219 migrants in Paso Canoas, Ciudad Neily and Río Claro (Border between Costa Rica-Panama); San Carlos (Centre of Costa Rica) and Los Chiles (Border Costa Rica-Nicaragua), with the aim of knowing the dangers and abuses reported by the population in a situation of human mobility in the Darien Gap, as well as the assistance requested by the people surveyed in Costa Rica. 60 per cent of interviewees were men and 40 per cent women. Additionally, 33 per cent of interviewees travelled with children or adolescents as their responsibility at the moment of the interview.¹³⁶

Regarding the nationality of the people surveyed, it should be noted that 73 per cent are migrants of Venezuelan nationality, 13 per cent Colombian, 7 per cent other country and 3 per cent Peruvian. 87 per cent of the people surveyed had the United States as their intended destination, 8 per cent Mexico and 3 per cent Costa Rica. Below are the main risks reported by migrants disaggregated by condition and gender:¹³⁷

Main Risks reported by interviewees in the Darien Gap

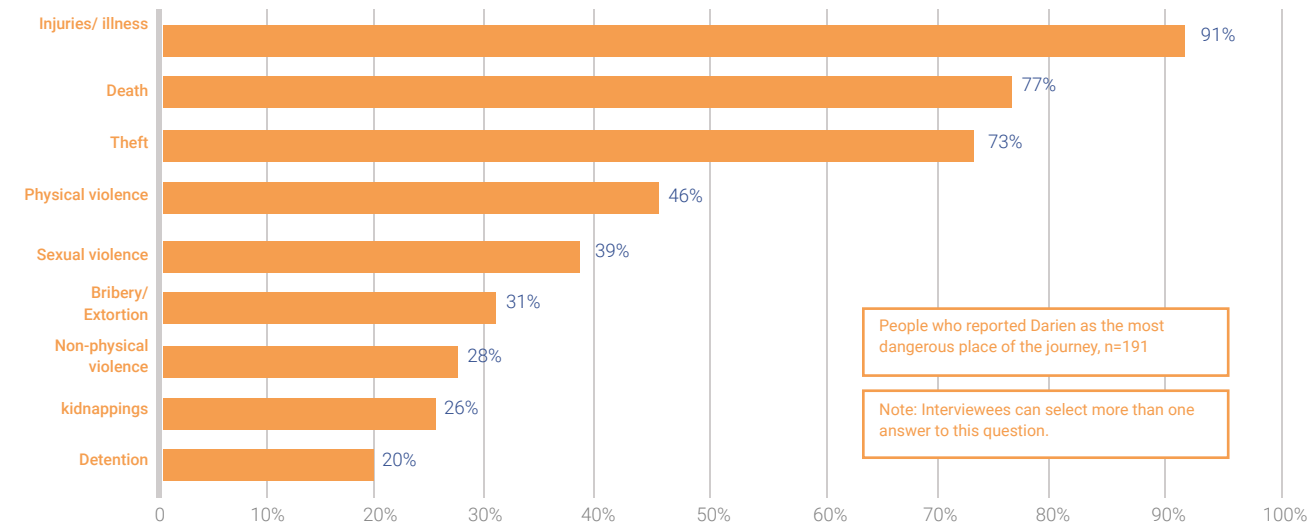
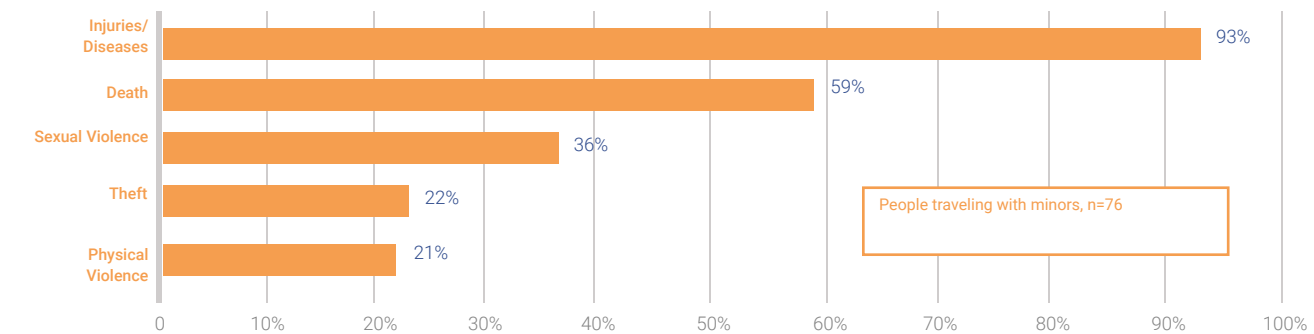
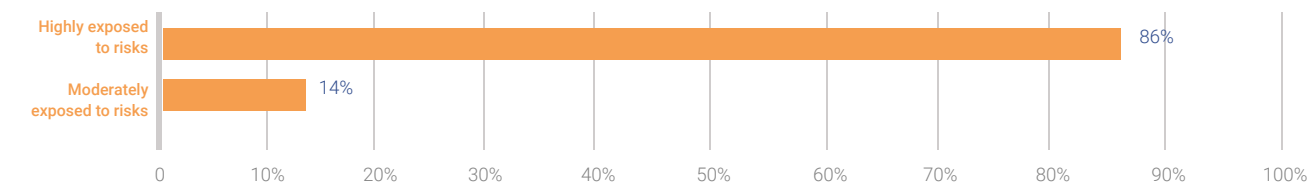


Chart extracted from the infographic produced by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and Mixed Migration Centre: [4Mi Infografía: Riesgos de seguridad en el Tapón del Darién y asistencia necesitada por personas refugiadas y migrantes \(4 de julio - 4 de septiembre 2022\)](#)

What are the risks for children traveling through the Darien Gap?



By what measures were children exposed to these risks?



Graph extracted from the infographic produced by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) and Mixed Migration Centre: [4Mi Infografía: Riesgos de seguridad en el Tapón del Darién y asistencia necesitada por personas refugiadas y migrantes \(4 de julio - 4 de septiembre 2022\)](#)

People traveling with minors and mentioned a risk, n=73

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