



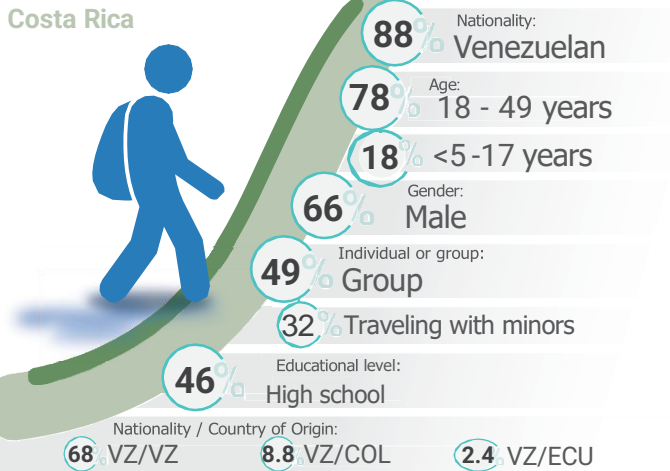
# Profile of Migrants in Transit through Costa Rica



The Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) implements a multisectoral program to support the migrant and refugee population in Costa Rica with funding from the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM). Under this project, PADF distributed humanitarian assistance kits to migrants in transit between September 13 and October 17, 2022. The following report summarizes key demographic data corresponding to the population benefited by this initiative.

Information was collected from 10,738 respondents who benefited from the distribution of 8,611 kits, using a form that was filled out with the data of the person responsible for the beneficiary group (family or walking unit). In all of the tables included below, the data reported as "ND" (No Data) corresponds to information that the beneficiaries did not provide at the time of completing the form. The kits were distributed in different parts of the country where the migrant population is concentrated, especially in border areas and the central valley (San Jose). Most of the information was compiled in Paso Canoas (51%) at the border between Panama and Costa Rica.

## Migrant Profile Snapshot



5% (n=259) of surveyed migrants have special needs, among them:  
 Critical/chronic medical condition: 33% Lactating/With Child: 32%

## Nationality and Age

Of the total migrant population surveyed, 88% was Venezuelan, followed by Ecuadorian (4%), Haitian (2%) and Colombian (2%). Further, 3% reported other nationalities such as Afghan, Cuban, Bolivian, Cameroonian, Chilean, Chinese, Dominican, & Russian, among others.

In addition, 79% of the population was between 18 and 49 years old. It is important to note that 18% of the population in transit are minors and of that, almost half (7% of the total) are under 5 years old.

Age ranges	Men	Women	Other	ND	Total	%
< 5	365	361	8	2	736	7%
5-17	625	529	1	4	1,159	11%
18 - 49	5,782	2,541	12	102	8,437	78%
50 and >	128	64	0	3	195	2%
ND	38	6	0	167	211	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,938</b>	<b>3,501</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>10,738</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 2.**

Distribution of total beneficiaries by age range and sex (n=10,738)

Nationality	%
Venezuelan	88%
Ecuadorian	4%
Haitian	2%
Colombian	2%
Cuban	1%
Nicaraguan	1%
Other	1%
ND	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 1.**  
Count of total beneficiaries by nationality (n=10,738)

## Specific Data on the Person Responsible for the "Family or Walking Unit"

The following information corresponds to the data provided by the 4,777 people responsible for the family or walking unit who received the humanitarian assistance kit. This information allows us to better profile their characteristics and know the conditions of those who migrate.

In addition to sociodemographic information, the surveys also revealed information on migrants' educational level, as well as their trade and profession in their country of origin. (see Table 3.)

Educational level	Men	Women	ND	Other	Total	%
Graduate	5	10	0	0	15	0%
University Degree	265	166	7	0	438	9%
Associate Degree	109	55	1	0	165	3%
Secondary (Middle or High School)	1,507	789	28	1	2,325	49%
Primary	479	236	5	1	721	15%
Pre-school	140	51	1	0	192	4%
None	20	5	0	0	25	1%
ND	562	267	67	0	896	19%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,087</b>	<b>1,579</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4,777</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 3.**  
Educational level of individual surveyed responsible for family or walking unit (n=4,777)



Given the different responses regarding trade and profession, responses were reclassified into broader categories to analyze data trends. The main professions were trade/commerce (9%), domestic work (7%), and the professional sector (7%).

Profession or trade	Men	Women	ND/ Other	%
Trade/commerce	56%	44%	0%	<b>9%</b>
Domestic work	2%	98%	0%	<b>7%</b>
Professional	53%	47%	0%	<b>7%</b>
Independent services	65%	34%	1%	<b>6%</b>
Construction	98%	1%	1%	<b>6%</b>
Food services	72%	28%	0%	<b>4%</b>
Operator/laborer	91%	7%	2%	<b>3%</b>
Mechanics	97%	2%	1%	<b>2%</b>
Security	85%	15%	0%	<b>2%</b>
Transportation	99%	0%	1%	<b>2%</b>
Student	48%	52%	0%	<b>2%</b>
Education	48%	50%	2%	<b>1%</b>
Other	70%	29%	1%	<b>1%</b>
Technician	56%	42%	2%	<b>1%</b>
None	70%	26%	4%	<b>12%</b>
ND	68%	28%	4%	<b>35%</b>
<b>%</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 5.**  
Reclassification of the profession  
of the head of family or walking unit  
(n=4,777)

#### Description of categories:

**Trade/commerce:** merchant, seller, delivery worker, sales advisor, foreign trader, wholesaler, among others.

**Professional:** professions that require a university degree such as: law, medicine, management, engineering, communication, psychology, accounting, computer science, design, etc.

**Independent services:** trades that are sold or offered independently such as: cabinetmaking, barbering, manicuring, plumbing, hairdressing, styling, etc.

**Construction:** trades linked to the construction sector: welding, masonry, electrical work, painting, master building, etc.

**Food services:** jobs related to the food industry: agriculture, baking, cooking, bartending, fishing, butchering, etc.

**Operator/laborer:** machine or cargo operation, winemaking, mining, etc.

**Mechanics:** specialist in automotive mechanics or industrial mechanics.

**Security:** trades related to security services, such as: military, police, guard, national guard, soldier, escort, etc.

**Transportation:** trades related to private and public transport activities, such as: driver, taxi driver, motorized, driver, metro employee, etc.

**Student:** university students.

**Education:** professionals dedicated to the educational field: teacher, professor, etc.

**Technician:** jobs that demand a degree at the technical level, such as: laboratory assistant, secretary, clerk, human resources worker, assistant, etc.

**Public official:** persons who work in state institutions.

**Oil industry:** people who are engaged in jobs related to the oil industry.

**Other:** jobs and trades whose frequency of reporting is low: athlete, firefighter, porter, artist, professional dancer, hostess, port worker, DJ, railroad worker, etc.

## Details of the Trip Undertaken

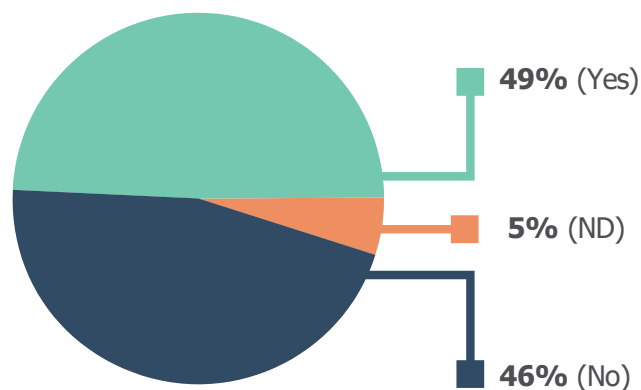
Of the total, 70% of respondents indicated that they started their journey from Venezuela, while 10% said they started from Colombia. There were 4% who mentioned other countries such as Brazil, Chile, Argentina, Afghanistan, among others. Most people started the journey from their country of origin, and to a lesser extent from neighboring countries (see Table 6). Among Venezuelans specifically, 79% left from Venezuela, however there were 9% who started their journey from Colombia, and 3% who did so from Ecuador.

		Nationality			
		VZ	EC	COL	OTHER
Country of departure or start of the trip	VZ	79%	4%	16%	8%
	COL	9%	1%	74%	0%
	ECU	3%	91%	2%	3%
	PERÚ	2%	1%	2%	2%
	OTHER	2%	1%	4%	82%
	ND	5%	2%	2%	5%
	TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%

HAITIANS FROM HAITI **71%**

**Table 6.**  
Nationality and country of origin of the head of household or walking group (n=4,777)

Of the total number of people surveyed, 49% traveled accompanied, 46% alone, and 5% did not answer the question (see Figure 1). Of the people who reported traveling alone, 81% were men.



**Graphic 1.**  
Beneficiaries who reported traveling accompanied (n=4,777)

Those travelling accompanied were mostly young adults, followed by children and adolescents, as shown in the table below.

Age ranges	Men	Women	ND	Total	%
< 5	365	361	10	736	12%
5-17	601	510	4	1,115	19%
18 - 49	2,836	1,026	20	3,882	65%
50 and >	49	25	0	74	1%
ND	0	0	154	154	3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,851</b>	<b>1,922</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>5,961</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Table 7.** Distribution of those travelling accompanied, by age group and gender. (n= 5,961)

Of the 4,777 respondents, 5% (259) reported having specific needs among which included: critical or chronic medical conditions, lactating population, pregnant women, some disability, or elderly population. On the other hand, 85% (4,052) reported having no specific needs and 10% (464) did not answer the question.

Type of Medical Issue	Men	Women	Total	%
Critical/chronic medical condition	54	32	86	33%
Lactating/With Child	19	64	83	32%
Pregnant	19	45	64	25%
Disability	12	4	16	6%
Elderly	6	3	9	4%
Other	1	0	1	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>100%</b>

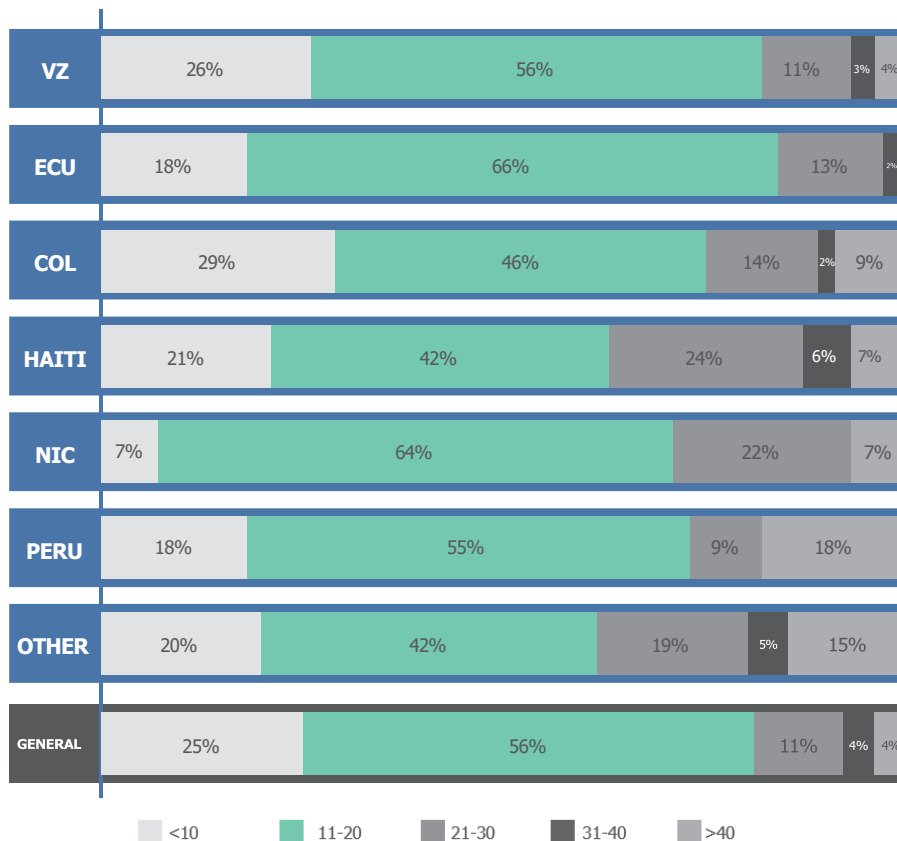
**Table 8.** Distribution of beneficiaries who report a special need, by type and sex (n=259)



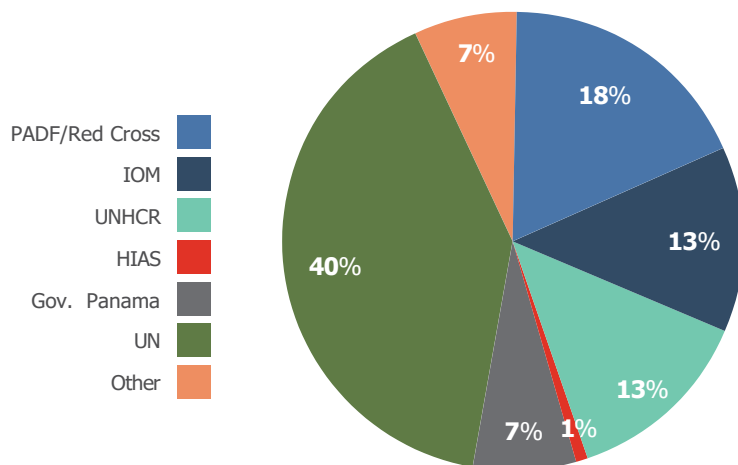
**Image:** Humanitarian Assistance Kits

In addition, 94% of the people assisted said they intended for the United States to be their final destination, and the remaining 6% did not specify.

To better understand the length of the journeys, the start dates of the beneficiaries' trips and the date on which the humanitarian kits were delivered were compared according to nationality (as shown below). In fact, 56% of respondents reported traveling between 11 and 20 days, while 25% reported a trip during less than 10 days.



Finally, respondents were asked whether they received humanitarian assistance from international organizations and government entities while in Panama. Of the 4,777 respondents, 23% reported receiving support from an organization in the country.



**Graphic 2.** Number of mentions of organizations that have provided assistance in Panama, by institution (n=1,098\*)

\* More mentions are reported than beneficiaries who indicated having received assistance, since the survey was multiple choice and there were beneficiaries who mentioned more than one organization.