

ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN PROGRAM

IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return Program aims to achieve the voluntary, orderly and humane return of migrants who cannot or do not want to stay in their countries of transit or destination and wish to return voluntarily to their country of origin.

Since November 4th, 2018, IOM has provided voluntary return assistance to 1168 people, 48 of which are unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents.

Voluntary return assistance

1168

Unaccompanied children and adolescents

48

Transport method



By land

81%



By air

4%



By air and land

15%

COUNTRIES OF RETURN

In Mexico, the accreditation of cases from Tijuana and Mexico City (adults and accompanied children) are concentrated in Tapachula.

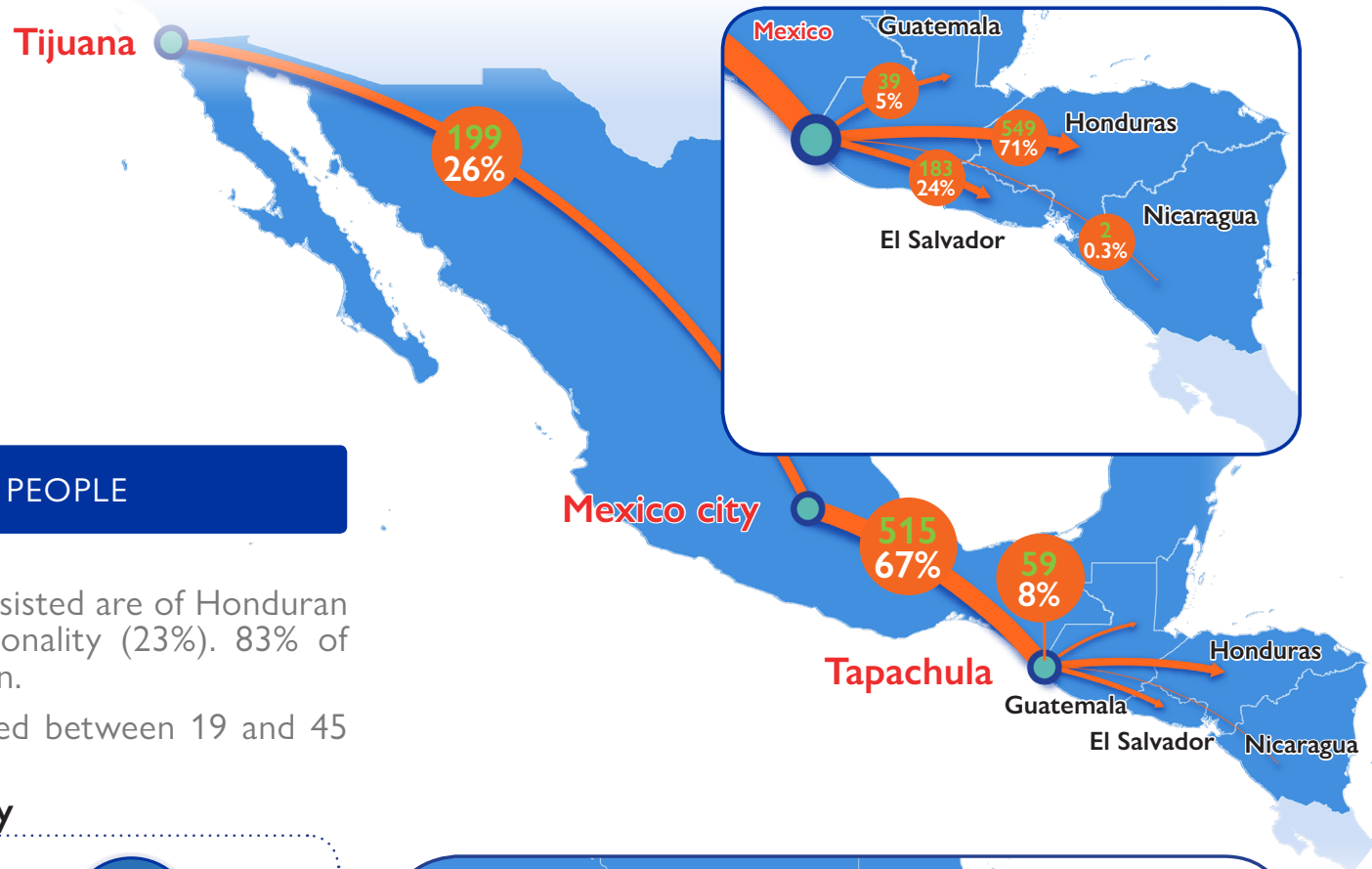
The majority of cases were registered in Mexico City (67%) and Tijuana (26%). Some additional cases were registered in Tapachula (8%).

All unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents registered in Mexico have benefited from a voluntary return assisted by air, due to their high level of vulnerability.

In cases registered in Guatemala, the Voluntary Return Program has operated from the border with Mexico, in Tecun Umán, and by land only. The 77% of migrants registered in Guatemala returned to Honduras and 23% to El Salvador.

In terms of means of transportation, 81% of migrants have been returned by land transport, 4% by air transport (unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents) and 15% have alternately used air and land during their assisted return.

- Symbology**
- Registration point
 - Persons assisted



PROFILE OF ASSISTED PEOPLE

Most of the people who have been assisted are of Honduran nationality (74%) or Salvadoran nationality (23%). 83% of migrants are men and 17% are women.

Ages of the migrants are concentrated between 19 and 45 years (75%).

By nationality



Guatemala
3%



El Salvador
23%



Honduras
74%

By sex



Women
17%



Men
83%



PROFILE OF ASSISTED PEOPLE

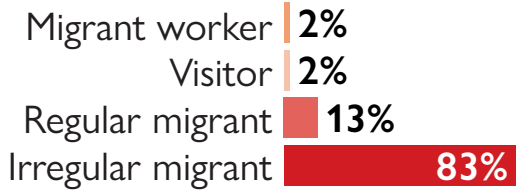
Migrants at the time of voluntary return had irregular migration status (83%) of which 51% were identified in Mexico and 49% in Guatemala.

Other people had regular migration status (13%), visitor (2%) or migrant worker (2%), such cases were only identified in Guatemala.

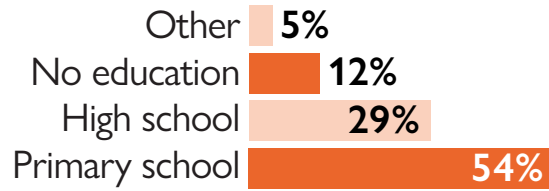
The educational profile is characterized by being at the primary level (54%), consisting of 46% women and 54% men and at the secondary level (29%), in which 21% are women and 79% are men. The 12% of the population does not have any type of education, of which 27% are migrants who are minors to 5 years old and who still have not entered general basic education and 73% are adults who did not have access to basic education (of the adults, 19% are women and 81% are men).

In addition, in their countries of origin, most people worked in the agricultural sector (24%), followed by the building (20%) and commerce sector (13%). In the agricultural sector, people have mostly primary (68%) and secondary (16%) education levels. In the building sector, the level of education is also mostly at the primary level with 60% and is followed by the secondary level at 25%. In the commerce sector the level of education among migrants is primary (31%) and secondary (25%).

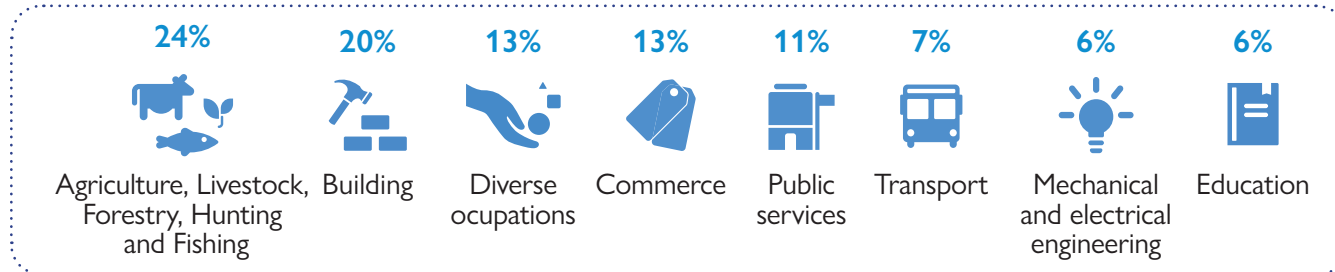
Migration status



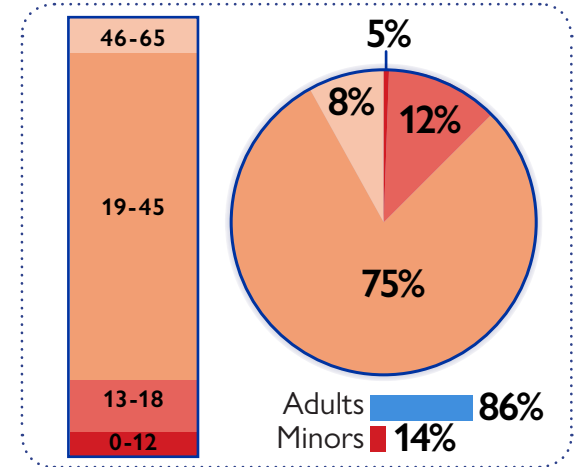
Education



Area of occupation



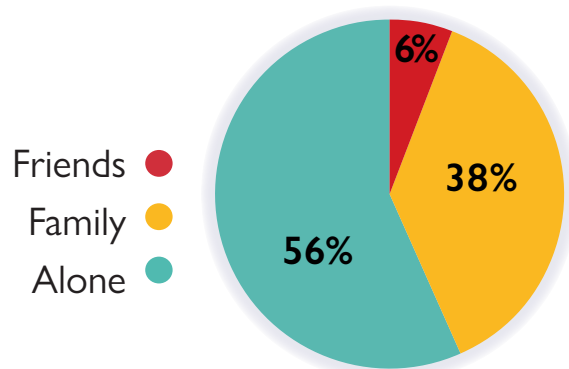
By age



RELATIONSHIP WITH THOSE WHO TRAVEL

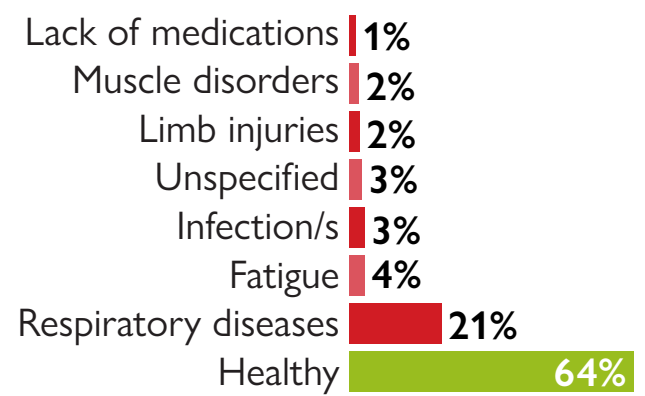
The following chart shows the familiar relationship between the people who are part of the migrant caravan. In the first category, the data show that most migrants are travelling alone (56%), followed by migrants travelling with first-degree relatives, i.e. parents, siblings and children (38%), and finally, a small percentage of migrants (6%) state that they traveled with friends or acquaintances.

Regarding migrants who are travelling with family members, 22% are minors between 0 and 17 years of age, and 14% are under 13 years of age.



HEALTH CONDITION

Regarding the health conditions of migrants, the majority are self-perceived as healthy, however it was identified at the time of the screening process that approximately one third suffered from respiratory diseases, as well as some cases of infections and affectations in muscles and extremities.



REASONS FOR MIGRATING

In the adjoining graph, three categories were used that summarize concisely the main reasons for migration.

The search for better living conditions has been highlighted as the main reason why migrants were mobilized, as many of them referred to conditions of unemployment and inequality in their countries of origin.

Secondly, the violence and insecurity experienced has been another of the fundamental causes of the mobilization of migrants into the caravans, many of them mentioned threats by gang members. Finally, some people have stated that their reason for joining caravans was the desire to find relatives in the destination country.

