

HIGHLIGHTS



In the MRS of Los Planes, in Chiriqui, the number of migrants arriving from Darien remains low. As of November 25, a total of 602 migrants were sheltered at the station, among these, 11 families (128 people) could be identified.



In Rio Claro, there has been a drop in migrants using the bus service to San Jose. According to key informants, between 150 and 200 bus tickets are sold daily. Therefore, there has been a decline in the local economy in both formal and informal services.

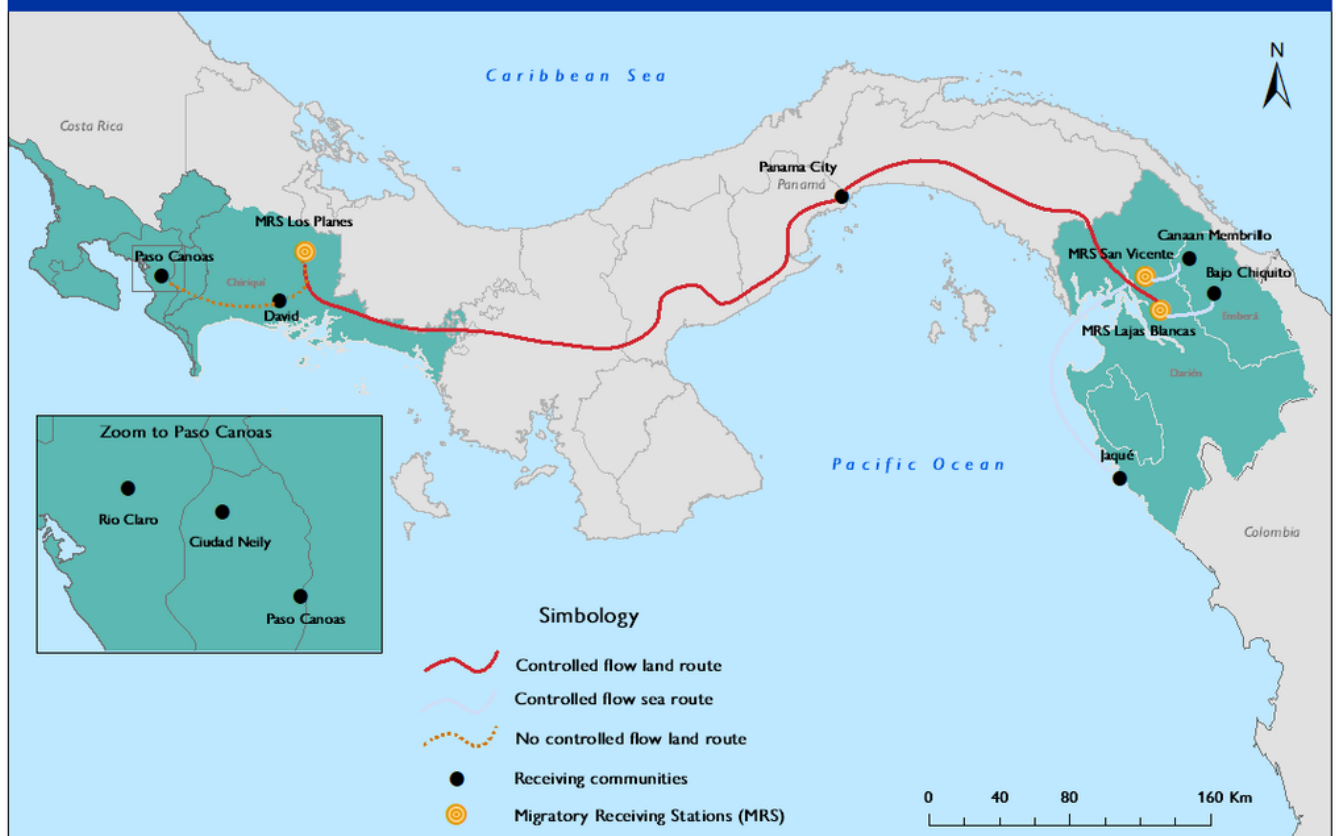


In Paso Canoas, there has also been a drop in the number of people entering, according to key informants. It is known that from November 16 to 25, 2,355 migrants were registered leaving the MRS of Los Planes bound for Costa Rica.



Key informants indicate that the current migration flow identified in Paso Canoas and surrounding host communities has been represented by people from Haiti, Cuba, Bangladesh and India. At the same time, the number of families traveling with children has decreased; however, the families that continue to transit are apparently Haitians.

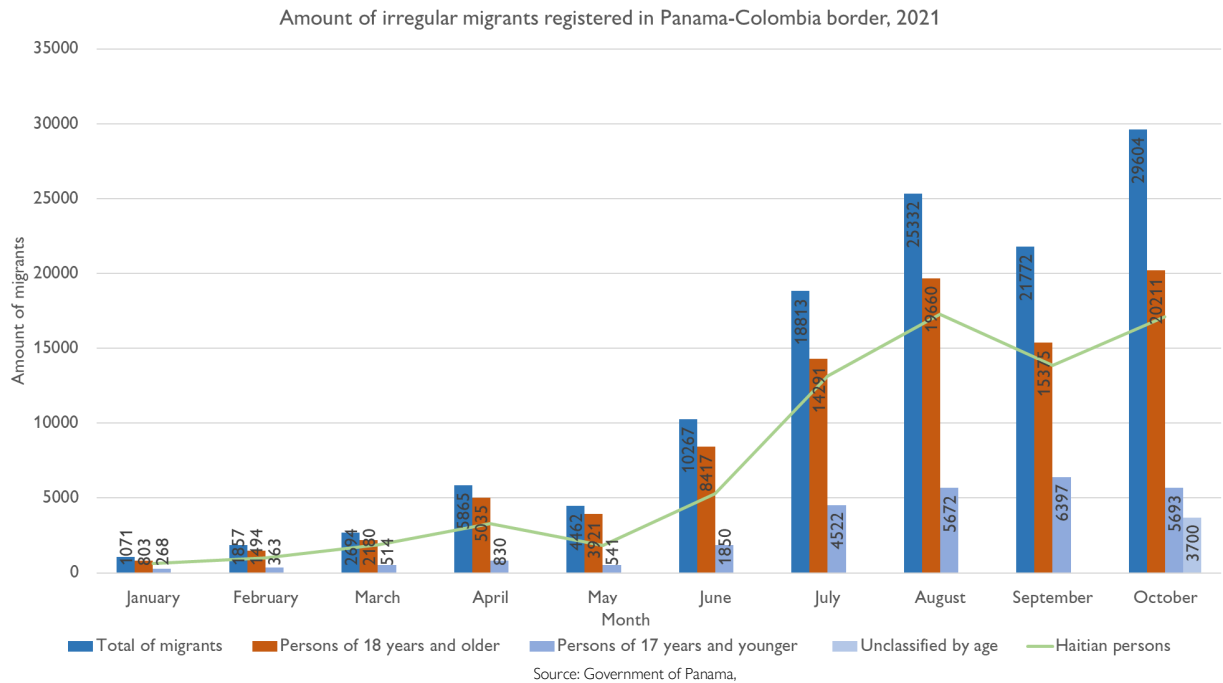
Migratory flow route of high vulnerable people between Costa Rica and Panama, 2021



Source: ESRI and UN World Map

This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

CONTEXT OF THE SITUATION

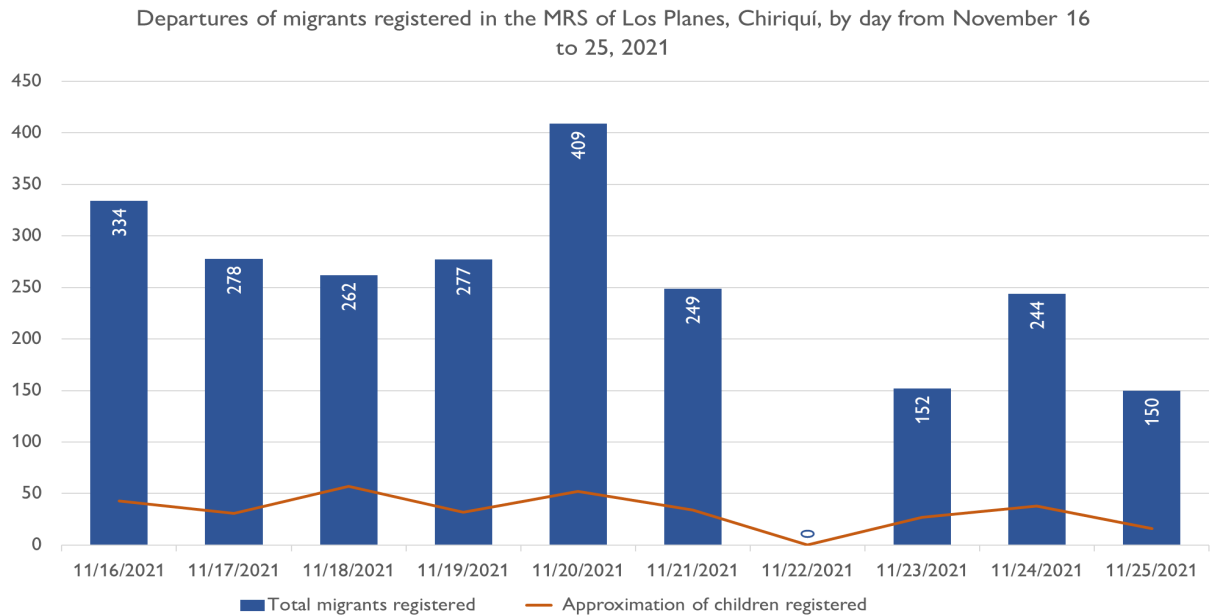


The flow of extraregional migrants transiting through Central America to North America continues to increase. In Panama, according to data from the National Migration Service (SNM), between January and October 2021, 121,737 migrants of various nationalities, such as Haiti (62%), Cuba (13%), Chile (8%), Brazil (7%), Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (2%), among other countries in South America, Africa and Asia, have entered Panama irregularly at the Panama-Colombia border. People from Chile and Brazil are children of Haitian migrants born in those countries.

The Government of Panama and the Government of Costa Rica have prepared a plan for the potential reactivation of the Controlled Flow Operation between the two countries. This plan includes the regulated transit from the southern

border to the northern border of Costa Rica by the Professional Migration Police (PPME). However, as of the date of this report, there is no approximate date for the implementation of the Binational Controlled Flow Operation.

In Costa Rica, there has been an increase in the number of migrants who have decided to stay in the country, mainly Haitians. In different localities such as Tarrazu and Limon, family groups have been found looking for work, some of them with open processes on refugee applications in the country before the General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners (DGME).



HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE



WATER SUPPLY, HYGIENE AND SANITATION

- At the Los Planes MRS, the aqueduct system is not functioning; therefore, there is no water supply for human consumption, personal hygiene or sanitation. To mitigate this situation, SNM continues to provide bottled water for human consumption and has allowed the use of a stream near the MRS for personal hygiene and laundry.



HEALTH

- There is still a need for permanent medical assistance at MRS of Los Planes and transit localities such as Paso Canoas due to the constant cases of migrants (especially children) with skin lesions and respiratory diseases.
- In Costa Rica, key informants indicate that migrants have expressed a need for assistance in public medical services; however, it is not clear what referral routes or protocols exist at the local level.



FOOD SAFETY AND NUTRITION

- In the MRS Los Planes, fruit has been included in the meals. On the other hand, during the journey between Darien and Chiriqui, juices and cookies are donated to children.



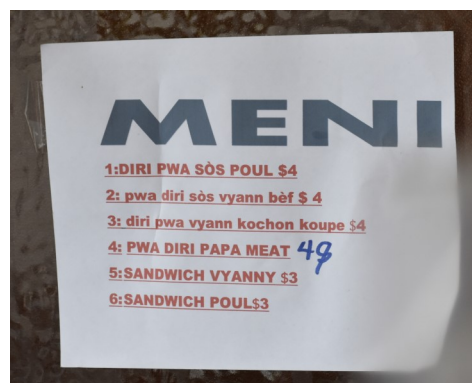
Migrants in Rio Claro, Costa Rica. © IOM 2021

- There is currently no cutlery and crockery available at the MRS for use by migrants. Instead, each person must bring his or her own utensils.



PROTECTION

- In the MRS of Los Planes there is alarm about the increase in the number of cases of gender and domestic violence. The main limitation in addressing these cases is that the migrants are in transit and the people themselves do not wish to open any legal process or assistance in Panama.
- IOM, in coordination with SNM, has provided accompaniment for cases of migrants who wish to return voluntarily to their countries of origin or habitual residence.
- In Costa Rica, local committees in the southern zone have expressed interest in providing humanitarian assistance to migrants in transit; however, they state that they require the support of organizations specialized in the protection and assistance of highly vulnerable migrants.



Menu of a restaurant in Rio Claro translated into Haitian Creole, Costa Rica. © IOM 2021

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