

Consortium LIFE-Honduras SITUATION REPORT

emergency
LEAVE NO ONE
migration
BEHIND
family

COVERAGE PERIOD

FROM MAY 4TH
TO JUNE 4TH 2023

For more
information
scan the
QR code



EVENT

Irregular migration situation in El Paraíso and Choluteca, Francisco Morazán and Ocotepeque Honduras.

LOCALIZATION (COUNTRY, REGION, AREA AFFECTED):

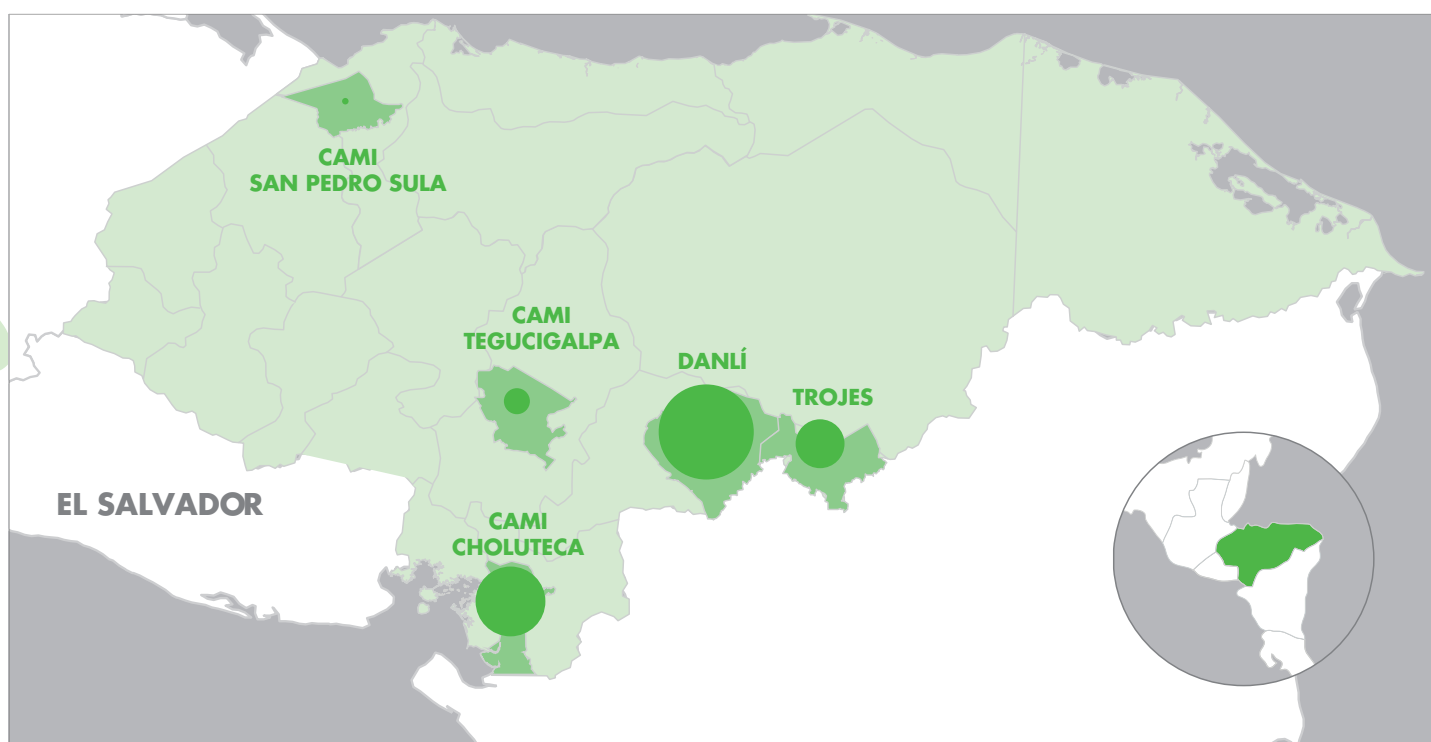
Municipalities of Trojes, Danlí and El Paraíso, Department of El Paraíso, Choluteca, Department of Choluteca, Central District, Department of Francisco Morazán and Machuca, municipality of Santa Fe, department of Ocotepeque, Honduras.

DELIVERY DATE

17/07/2023

MAP

IRREGULAR MIGRATION TRANSIT MAP BY DISTRICT



111.797

IRREGULAR MIGRANTS (FROM
JANUARY 1ST TO JUNE 4TH, 2023)



721

MIGRANTS PER DAY

4

MUNICIPALITIES



115

NACIONALITIES



58%

MEN



22%

WOMEN



20%

BOYS AND GIRLS

CONTEXT



Migrant families entering the Temporary Rest Center for Migrant Families in Trojes.

On May 12, 2023, the United States (U.S.) immigration regulation known as Title 42, which was implemented in 2020 during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, ceased to be in effect. This regulation facilitated the removal of undocumented persons entering the country for public health reasons.

The return to the application of the previous immigration regulations (Title 8) has been accompanied by an increase in the arrival of migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border, motivated in part by a disinformation campaign promoted by smuggling networks or coyotes, who deceive migrants into believing that the "border is open". In reality, the transit of people continues through unauthorized points under the control of these illegal networks. The entry into force of Title 8 strengthens controls in U.S. border areas, in addition to restricting access to the territory and asylum procedures.

Individuals who enter the U.S. in an irregular manner are also subject to penalties involving

the denial of asylum claims and expedited deportation. In addition, those who are deported may face a 5-year ban from entering the US. In the case of repeat irregular entry, they may face criminal prosecution. Between May 12 and June 2, 2023,¹ a total of 38,000 migrants from 80 countries were repatriated to Mexico under Title 8.

Parallel to the activation of greater restrictions on irregular entry into the U.S., the Biden administration announced the extension of legal channels to migrate to the U.S., such as the family reunification permit (parole which previously covered Venezuelans, Cubans, Haitians and Nicaraguans, and the extension to Guatemalans, Hondurans, Salvadorans and Colombians. To this end, Regional Processing Centers were created in Guatemala and Colombia, processing assistance for 5,000 to 6,000 people per month.

The humanitarian response in Central America has focused on providing a variety of services

¹ <https://radio-corporacion.com/blog/archivos/177855/estados-unidos-expulso-a-migrantes-nicaraguenses-bajo-el-amparo-del-titulo-8/>
<https://conexionmigrante.com/2023-/06-/07/posponen-hasta-agosto-el-juicio-del-parole-para-venezuela-cuba-haiti-y-nicaragua/>

for migrants including information and orientation, assistance in Migrant Attention Centers, and setting up Temporary Rest Centers. Food kits and access to asylum procedures in Guatemala have also been provided.

However, the need to strengthen some aspects has been identified, such as the need for better dissemination of information on prevention and protection mechanisms against gender-based violence (GBV). In addition, it is considered crucial to provide training to migration authorities in transit countries on humanitarian care and vulnerable people in transit.

Between January 1, 2023 and the closing date of this report, 111,797 people have arrived in Honduras, approximately 721 people daily. This figure represents a 167% increase over the same period of the previous year. Between May 4 and June 4, 2023, official statistics report the irregular entry of

24,989² people who have crossed through unauthorized points on the southern and southeastern borders of Honduras. Of this figure, 8,475 were registered at the Center for Attention to Irregular Migrants (CAMI) in Danlí and 5,741 at the offices of the National Migration Institute (INM) in that city, 8,096 at INM offices in Trojes, 2,646 at the CAMI in Choluteca, 30 at the CAMI in Tegucigalpa and 1 person was registered at the CAMI in San Pedro Sula.

As we have pointed out in previous reports, the figures correspond to irregular entries registered by the country's migration authorities. However, it is estimated that a significant number of migrant entries are not considered in any official statistics. This lack of knowledge of the exact number of migrants in transit through Honduras constitutes a challenge for the humanitarian community in this country, as well as others operating along the route.



Of the 24,989 people registered as having crossed the border irregularly during this reporting period, 46% are Venezuelan (11,518), followed by Cuban (9%), Ecuadorian (8%) and Haitian (6%). The official statistics include **115 different nationalities**

crossing the country this month. The next most frequent are: Chinese (924), Senegalese (753), Uzbeks (671), Colombians (610), Mauritians (602) and Ghanaians (535).

 **VENEZUELA**
11,518

 **CUBA**
2,249

 **ECUADOR**
1,999

 **HAÍTI**
1,499

 **CHINA**
924

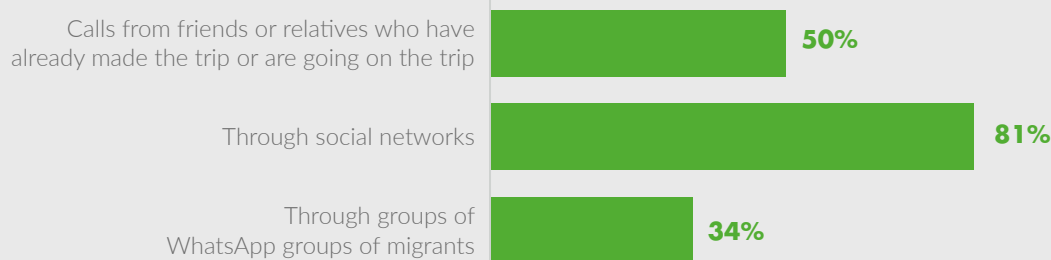
² <https://inm.gob.hn/estadisticas.html>

MONITORING MIGRANT POPULATION

Between January and June, we surveyed 1,785 people along the southern border of Honduras (Trojes and Danlí). Of the total number of respondents, 31% were men and 69% were women, with an average age of 30 years. The predominant nationality continues to be Venezuelan (80%), followed by Colombian (7%), Ecuadorian (6%) and Haitian (4%). Between May 4 and June 4, 2023 we surveyed people traveling alone (33%), with friends (22%), in family groups (33%), and with groups of people they do not consider family or friends (12%).

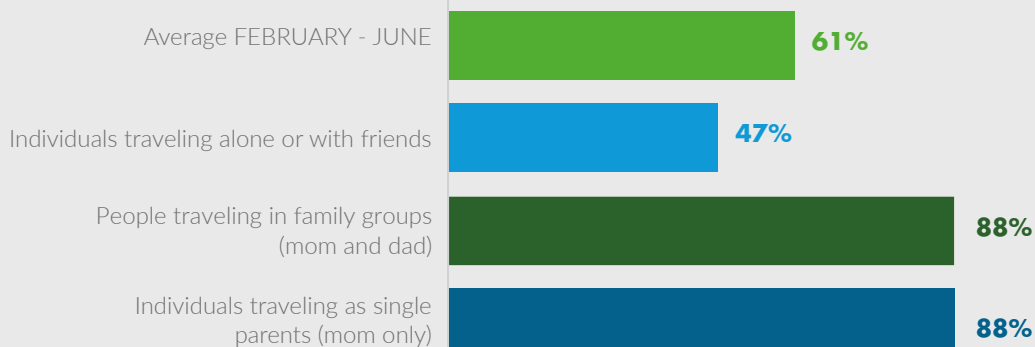
Of the total number of people surveyed, 28% were accompanied by a coyote. Of those who said they had not hired a coyote for the journey, only a small proportion planned to do so from Guatemala or Mexico. More than half of those surveyed considered that the danger would not change along the route to the U.S., although 13% considered that the trip would be more dangerous when arriving in Mexico. In general, people traveling with them, or migrants ahead of them, are the ones who inform these people of what they may encounter along the way:

FIGURE 01. FORMS OF COMMUNICATION OF PEOPLE IN TRANSIT



However, the feeling of danger varies according to the group with which they decide to travel: 61% of respondents felt that the road so far had been dangerous, although it is family groups that feel a higher level of danger along the route:

FIGURE 02. PEOPLE WHO CONSIDER THE TRIP TO HONDURAS TO HAVE BEEN DANGEROUS, ACCORDING TO THE TYPE OF FAMILY GROUP SURVEYED





On the other hand, 91% of the people surveyed stated that they had received some type of attention or support somewhere along the way. In general, they reported having timely access to accommodation (84%) and food (77%), through the support of different UN agencies (50%), private

individuals along the way (39%) and NGOs (28%). The needs of people in transit are very similar over time: they report needing monetary support to continue their journey (85%), food (55%) and lodging (21%).

CONSORTIUM RESPONSE

The **LIFE-Honduras Consortium** formed by Action Against Hunger, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), Pure Water for the World, ChildFund, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) and the Relief of Suffering Foundation (FAS), continues to provide emergency response to these populations in Danlí, Trojes, Choluteca, El Paraíso, Central District, Machuca, Ocotepeque, focusing on child protection, education, water, sanitation and hygiene, nutrition, health and social protection through Multipurpose Cash Transfers (TMM).

With the increase in the number of people in transit, we have also strengthen our services in El Paraíso (Relief of Suffering Temporary Rest Center) and in Trojes (Consortio LIFE Temporary Rest Center for migrant families), bringing the number of services provided to almost 6,200 people. These centers provide not only temporary lodging, but also two meals (breakfast and dinner), wifi connection, access to WASH services, change of clothes, nutrition, educational, medical and psychosocial care, and transportation services on the Las Manos-El Paraíso-Danlí route. **In addition, food (dinners) has been provided to almost 3,400 people who spend the night at the Center for Attention to Irregular Migrants (CAMI) in Danlí.** The humanitarian services provided by the LIFE-Honduras Consortium are totally free of charge.



Psychosocial care has also been provided in El Paraíso, Danlí, Trojes and Tegucigalpa, reaching 4,600 people. These activities are carried out through a model of mobile SMAPS (Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergencies) units, made up of a social worker, a psychologist and a community facilitator, who provide a safe space for protection and resilience to families in transit.

The protection spaces also serve to identify the most vulnerable families and provide them with economic assistance (humanitarian cash transfer) to cover their immediate and specific needs during their passage through Honduras. **Families accessing this support can be referred from the Nutrition, Health or Protection services** of the LIFE-Honduras Consortium. In this period, 267 families were reached, mostly associated with single-parent families, with a member in critical medical conditions, or large families. Families primarily use their transfers to purchase food and pay transportation to continue their journey.



HEALTH

The LIFE-HN Consortium continues to serve migrant families in transit in Ocotepeque, Choluteca, El Paraíso, Danlí and Trojes, **reaching more than 3,000 people during this period.** We have trained our teams to be able to initiate counseling on Child Development Care, so that health personnel can instruct caregivers in transit.



EDUCATION

We have provided essential services in Educational Spaces to more than 800 children and adolescents in transit to Danlí, Trojes and Tegucigalpa, with activities that promote reading and writing, intentional play activities that reinforce motor skills and laterality, activities with logical-mathematical reinforcement components, accompanied by the text "My Traveling Notebook" which are delivered with light educational kits (colors, pencils, short stories, word searches, coloring pages, mandalas, among others) to children and adolescents according to age groups and educational level. The peculiarity of the contents found in the travel kit is that it allows fathers, mothers or companions to accompany their children to continue with their learning process during their migratory transit.



NUTRITION

We have performed nutritional diagnoses on almost 2,300 children under two years of age in Choluteca, Ocotepeque, Tatumbula, Danlí and Trojes. Of these, more than 60 children have required specific attention because they were suffering from some degree of acute malnutrition and have been referred for specialized medical attention. In addition, we have nutritionally evaluated almost 300 pregnant and lactating women who have been given micronutrients in tablets, slings to carry their babies, and counseling to mothers, fathers and/or primary caregivers on breastfeeding and infant feeding.

WATER,
SANITATION
AND HYGIENE
(WASH)

We continue to provide safe water and sanitation services at the Temporary Rest Centers in Choluteca, Danlí, El Paraíso and Trojes, and at the main meeting points for migrants, such as the National Migration Institutes or bus stations, providing purified water in bottles at various hydration points. **This assistance has reached almost 28,000 people during the period covered by this report.** In addition, we have provided differentiated hygiene kits to almost 7,000 people at these points.

TESTIMONY



DEISY MERCADO GONZALEZ

"Migrating with my daughter has been hard".

Deisy Mercado left Venezuela to Colombia, in March of this year, because the economic situation became more difficult for her who made a living selling empanadas and pastries. "I was working on my own. Things did not go well, because prices had gone up. What I earned one day I had to invest the next day and it didn't work out at all," she says.

When she left her country she only had 35 USD in her bag, so she had to ask for money to continue her journey to the North. In Colombia "I made some money, saved up and decided to move forward."

Deisy, 22, is a single mother traveling with her young daughter. Since she left her country her objective was to take the irregular route to the United States, she never attempted to migrate legally to that country.

She says that "migrating with my daughter has been hard. I have had to carry weight, carry her, look for ways to work with her".

Like most migrants, she points to the dense jungle of the Darien as the roughest and most dangerous part of the journey between Colombia and

Honduras. "When I passed through the jungle I felt more comfortable, because in Panama, Costa Rica and Nicaragua I was helped because you can't travel without money. That's why I'm here, because if it hadn't been like that I would have returned", says Deisy and confesses that when she arrived in Panama after leaving the Darien "I even considered returning because you can't travel without money". She traveled without a telephone, but when she managed to get one, she wrote to her family to report that they were fine.

When she arrived in Honduras, she slept in parks for two days, because she did not know of the existence of Temporary Rest Centers. However, both she and her daughter received nutritional care from the LIFE-Honduras Consortium.

Attention from the LIFE-Honduras Consortium

"I really felt good, because they took care of my child, they gave me something for her to drink, yes, it was something good," says Deisy, who received a monetary transfer that she invested in food and transportation (buses) to cross Honduran territory.

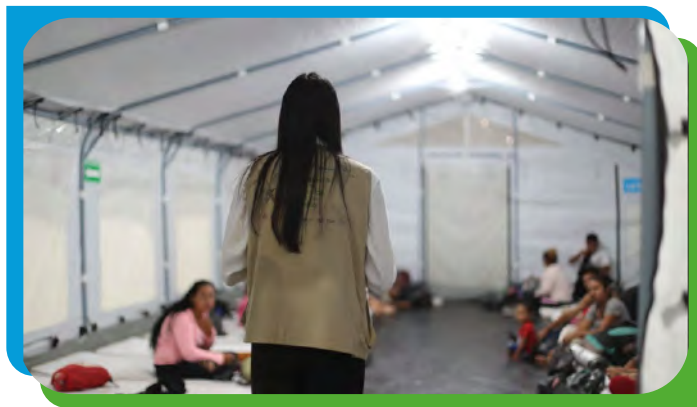
Deisy points out that, although the journey "is hard, it is not impossible", so she advises people who take the migratory route to "be very careful in the jungle, it is not easy but not impossible either, God helps us. And do not bring too many children in your arms, because children have a hard time. It will get worse if they travel without money".

She adds that people who bring money should be cautious "because in the jungle they rob you, they take people's money, they rape women and that is horrible".

Since leaving Venezuela, "I have asked for money in the streets to be able to get here. That's why I say that whoever comes without money is going to be a lot of work, too much work. It is better not to leave without money. Plan well, don't lose hope and be patient.



Arm circumference measurement for nutritional assessment of pregnant and lactating women provided by the nutrition Danlí team.



Temporary Rest Center for Migrant Families in Trojes.



Delivery of multipurpose cash transfers to families with infants under 5 years of age, pregnant or lactating women who are suffering from acute malnutrition. Services around the INM offices in Danlí and Trojes.



Sanitary module at the Carlos Roberto Reina Temporary Rest Center, in Trojes.



Protection activities in a tent located in the surroundings of INM Danlí.



Counseling to a mother on the correct use of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) formulated for the nutritional rehabilitation of children from six months of age.