

Access to information before and during the journey among refugees and migrants in Costa Rica

This infographic presents data on access to information among refugees and migrants heading north, interviewed in Costa Rica. It aims to contribute towards a solid evidence base to inform targeted responses on the ground, as well as advocacy efforts related to the situation of refugees and migrants in the region.

METHODOLOGY

DATA COLLECTION SITES:

Paso Canoas, Ciudad Nelly, Río Claro (Costa Rica-Panamá border); San Carlos, Heredia, and Alejuela (Central Costa Rica); Los Chiles (Costa Rica-Nicaragua border)

DATA COLLECTION PERIOD:

5 September - 8 November 2022

METHODOLOGY OF DATA COLLECTION:

Face-to-face interviews

SAMPLE SIZE:

268 respondents

Background

- In October 2022, 59,773 people heading north entered Panama through the Darien Gap, (+92% compared to August, and +24% compared to September). Between January and October, 211,355 refugees and migrants entered Panama from the Darien Gap. Most were Venezuelans (70%).¹
- On October 12, the US government announced a new legal pathway for Venezuelan nationals.² Applicants willing to enter the country regularly should apply from abroad and have a supporter in the United States, who will provide financial and other support. Venezuelan nationals would be ineligible if they irregularly entered Mexico or Panama after October 12 or had been ordered to be removed from the US in the past five years.
- In the weeks following the announcement of the new policy, the number of Venezuelans heading to Panama from Colombia has strongly decreased (-90% between the first week of October and the first week of November).³
- However, the transit of refugees and migrants of other nationalities from South to Central America through the Darien Gap continues.

Respondents profiles

Sex distributions of respondents



Profiles

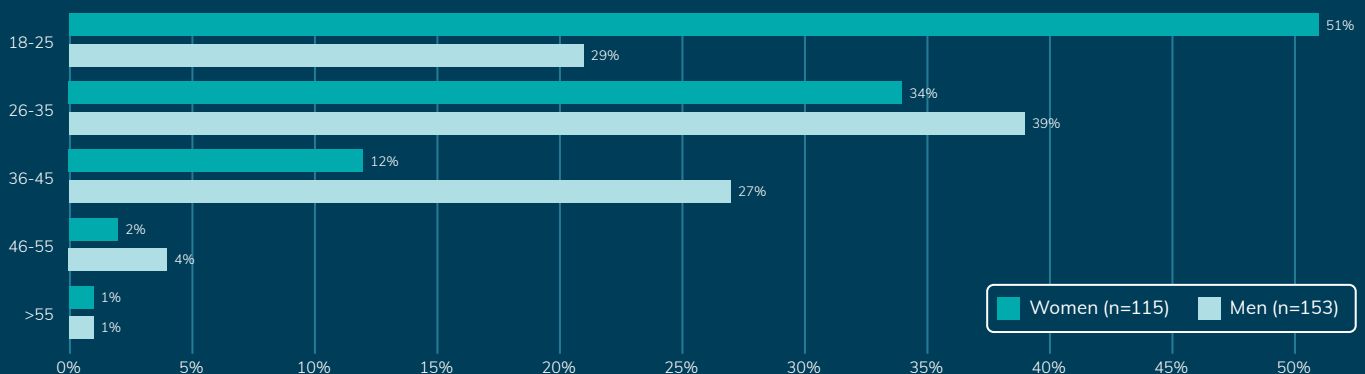
- **38% of respondents** were in the **18 to 25 years** age range during the data collection period.

Note: The 4Mi sample is purposive. Data presented in this snapshot cannot be considered as representative of the mixed migration dynamics in the region.



31% of respondents were traveling with children in their care at the time of the interview

Age distributions of respondents



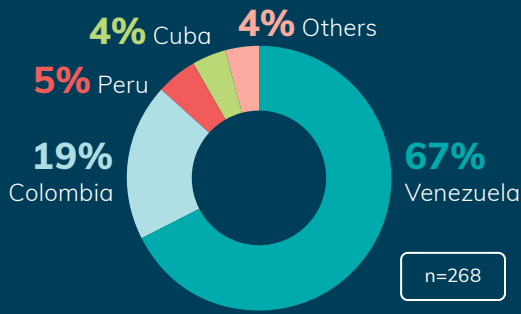
1 Servicio Nacional de Migración de Panamá (2022): [Base dedatosabierta](#)

2 USCIS (2022): [Process for Venezuelans](#)

3 GIFMM (2022): [Actualización semanal - Situación de personas refugiadas y migrantes en tránsito en Necoclí \(Antioquia\), 7 noviembre 2022](#)

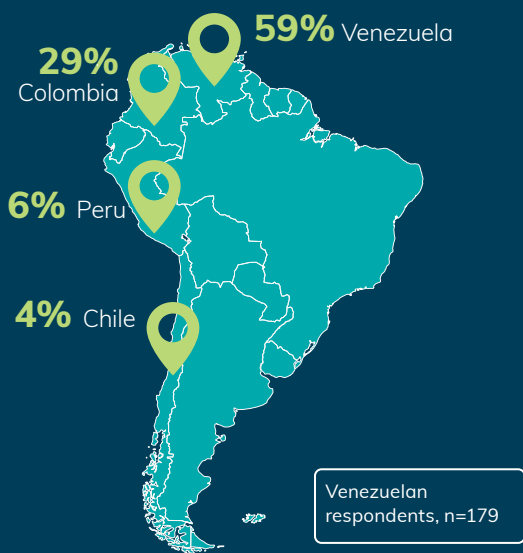
Respondents Profiles

Nationality



The proportions of respondents by nationality broadly correspond to the current composition of registered entries in Panama from the Darien Gap in August/October.⁴

Where Venezuelans' journeys began

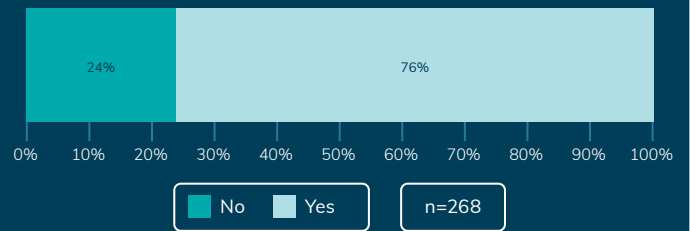


Country of destination

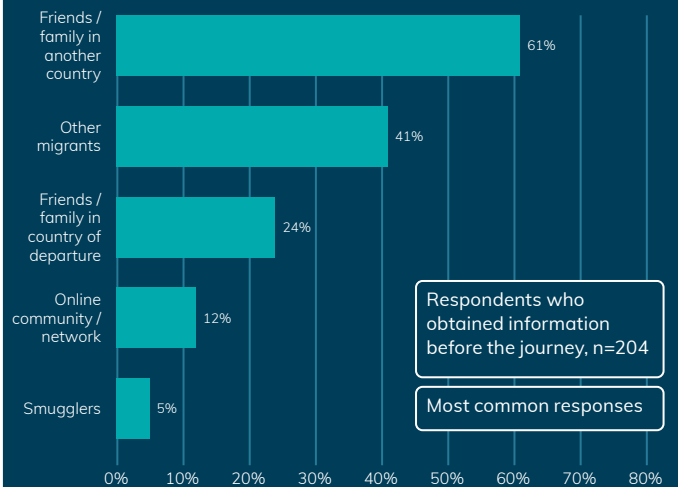


Access to information before the journey

Did you obtain information about routes, destinations, costs, risks etc before the journey?

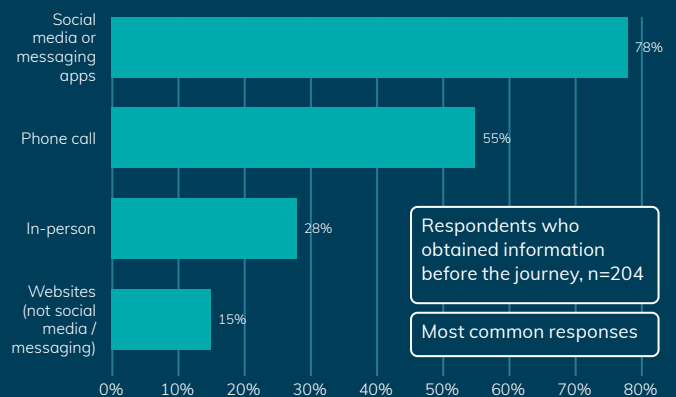


Sources of information used before the journey



Note: Respondents may select more than one answer to this question

Means of information most commonly used before the journey



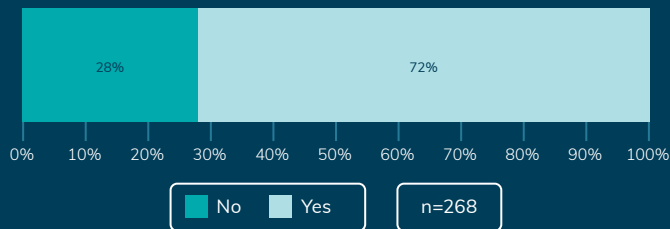
Note: Respondents may select more than one answer to this question

- Less than **1%** of respondents mentioned **traditional channels** such as radio, TV or newspapers

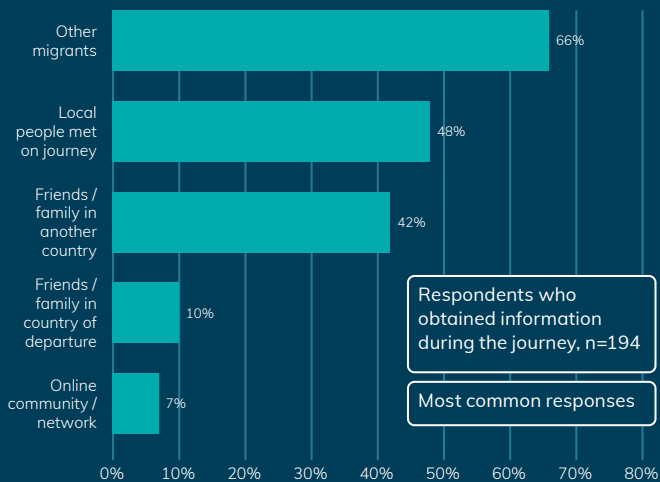
4 Servicio Nacional de Migración de Panamá (2022): [Base dedatosabierta](#)
 5 32% of the surveys were conducted after October 12th.

Access to information during the journey

Did you obtain information about routes, destinations, costs, risks etc during the journey?



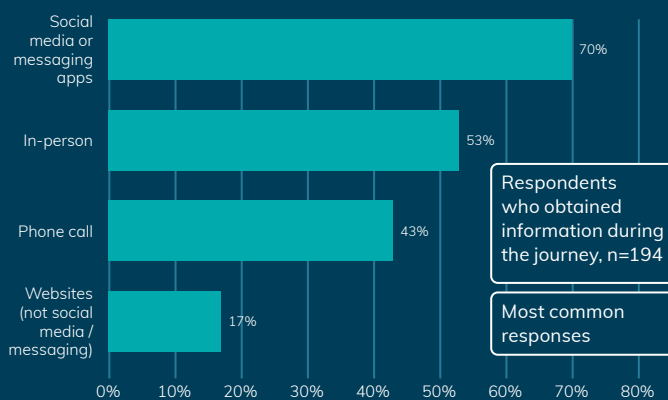
Sources of information used during the journey



Note: Respondents may select more than one answer to this question

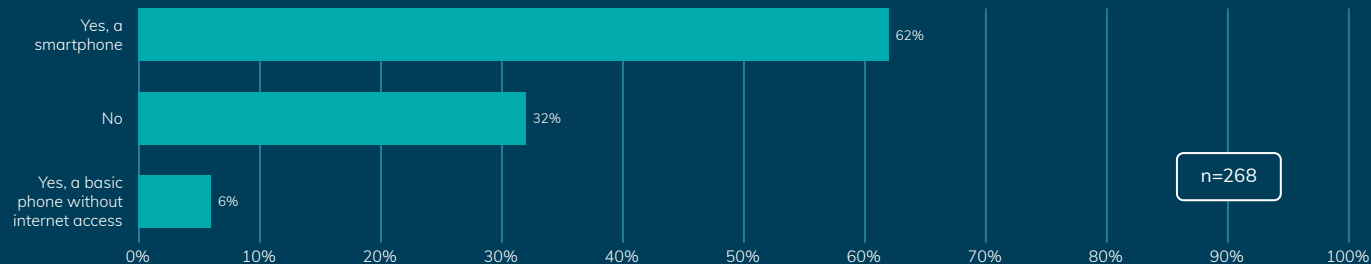
- Less than **1% of all respondents** mentioned **NGOs, UN organizations, and institutional actors** as sources of information used during the journey

Means of information most commonly used during the journey

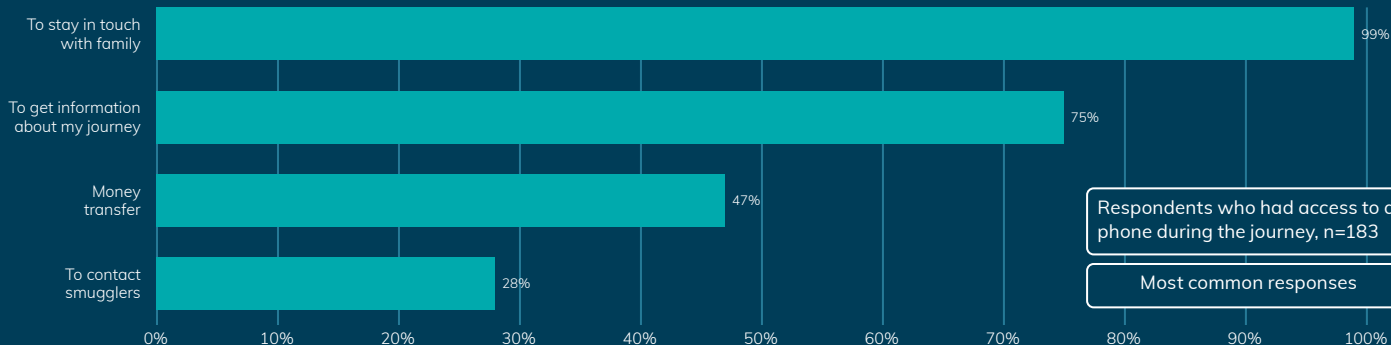


Note: Respondents may select more than one answer to this question

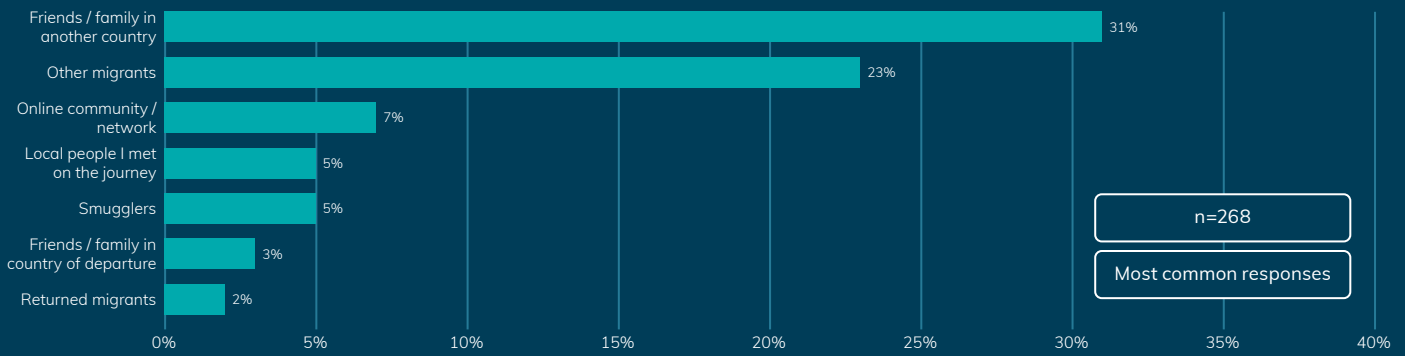
Did you have access to a functional phone during your journey?



Reasons to use the phone during the journey

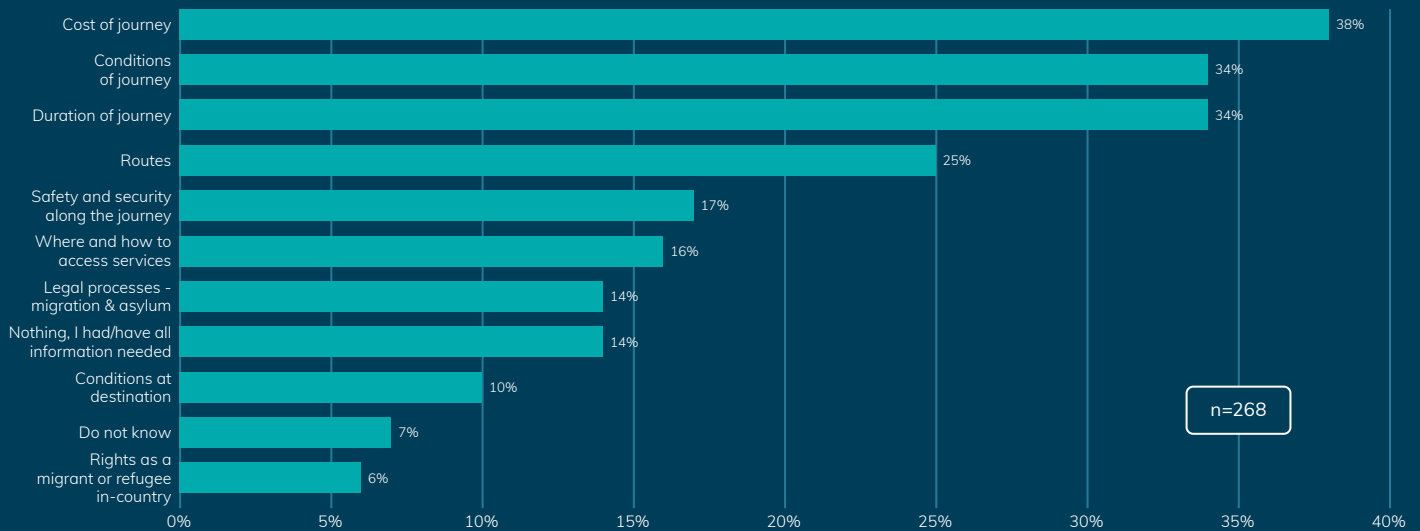


What has been the most reliable source of information overall?



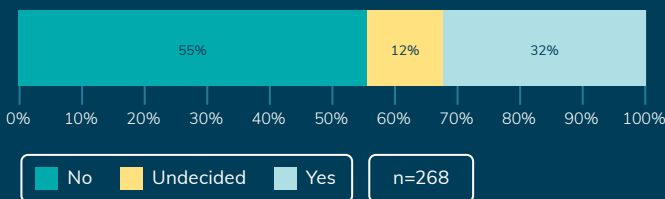
- No respondents reported **NGOs, UN organizations, or institutional actors** as the most reliable source of information

What information would have been most useful that you did not receive?

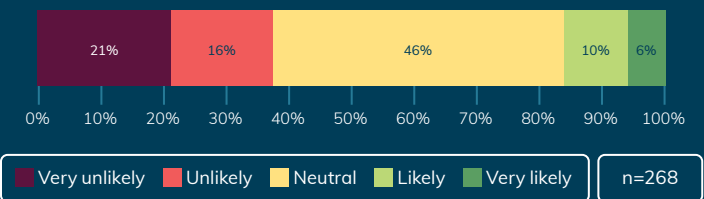


Note: Respondents may select more than one answer to this question

Would you have started this journey knowing what you know now?



How likely are you to encourage others to migrate as you have, knowing what you know now?



Funded by
European Union
Humanitarian Aid

4Mi data collection

4Mi is the Mixed Migration Centre's flagship primary data collection system, an innovative approach that helps fill knowledge gaps and inform policy and response regarding the nature of mixed migratory movements and the protection risks for refugees and migrants on the move. 4Mi field enumerators are currently collecting data through direct interviews with refugees and migrants in Asia and the Pacific, Eastern and Southern Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, North Africa, and West Africa. Note that the sampling approach means that the findings derived from the surveyed sample provide rich insights, but the figures cannot be used to make inferences about the total population. See more 4Mi analysis and details on methodology at: www.mixedmigration.org/4mi



@Mixed_Migration



@DRC_LAC



@ConsejoDanesDRC



info@mixedmigration.org