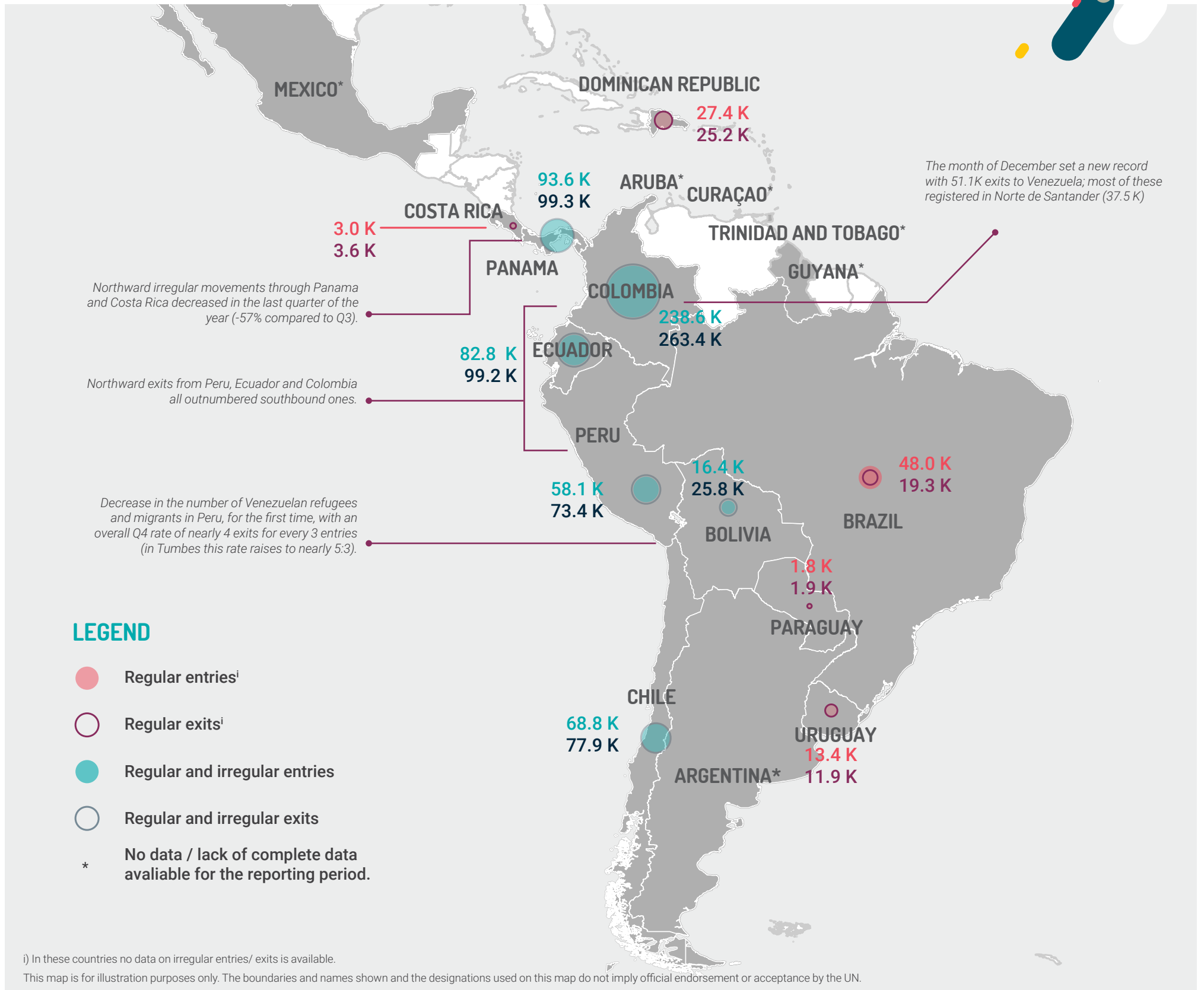


# CONSOLIDATED ENTRIES AND EXITS FROM OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2023



## SOURCES:

**1) Dominican Republic:** Regular entries and exits of Venezuelans by air.

Source: [Central Bank of the Dominican Republic](#)

**2) Costa Rica:** The figures correspond to the number of Venezuelan regular exits/entries by air and land reported by the DGME for the period covered by this report.

Source: General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners ([DGME](#))

**3) Panama:** Regular and irregular entries and exits of Venezuelans by air and land.

Source for irregular and regular entries and exits of Venezuelans: [Panama National Migration Service \(SNM\)](#)

**4) Colombia:** Regular and irregular entries and exits of Venezuelans by air, land, and sea borders.

For data on regular entries, see: [Migración Colombia](#)

Data on irregular movements in the borders with Ecuador, Venezuela and the Caribbean is based on a monitoring tool employing voluntary internet connections by refugees and migrants at 42 key GIFMM partners' service points located at border departments, under the DTM Wi-Fi Analytics project. Data for irregular entries via the Darien land border with Colombia is from the [Panama National Migration Service](#).

The estimations of irregular movements are indicative and are calculated based on information from Migración Colombia and DTM-WIFI.

**5) Ecuador:** Regular and irregular entries and exits of Venezuelans by air and land.

Source for regular entries and exits: [Ministry of Government](#)  
Source for irregular entries and exits: [GTRM Border Monitoring and Population Profiling System](#) triangulated with GTRM Peru irregular movement estimates.

**6) Peru:** Regular and irregular entries and exits of Venezuelans by air, land and sea borders.

Source for regular entries and exits: Superintendencia of Migration of Peru.

Source for irregular entries and exits: [DTM Flow Monitoring Registry in Tacna, Tumbes and Puno](#), triangulated with [GTRM Ecuador](#) irregular movement estimates.

Note: Monitoring exercises by R4V partners in Puno were temporarily suspended in July 2023, due to social and political events within Peru.

**7) Chile:** Regular entries and exits in all borders, and estimated irregular movements to/from Peru and Bolivia.  
Source for regular entries and exits: Investigations Police of Chile (PDI), data upon request.

Source for irregular entries and exits in the borders with Bolivia and Peru: IOM DTMs in the border points of [Pisiga/Colchane](#), and [Tacna/Arica](#).

**8) Brazil:** Regular entries and exits of Venezuelans at all points.

Source: [Brazilian Federal Police's International Traffic System](#).

**9) Paraguay:** Regular entries and exits.

Source: National Migration Directorate of Paraguay.

**10) Bolivia:** Regular entries and exits in all borders and irregular flows in the borders with Peru and Chile.

Source for regular flows: National Migration Directorate of Bolivia (DIGEMIG).

Source for irregular flows: IOM DTMs in the border points with [Peru \(Desaguadero\)](#) and [Chile \(Pisiga/Colchane\)](#).

**11) Argentina:** Regular entries and exits.

Source: National Migration Directorate of Argentina.

**12) Uruguay:** Regular entries and exits.

Source: National Migration Directorate of Uruguay.

Due to differences in methodology, geographic coverage of data collection, and availability of official statistics from the authorities, movements data from different countries may include variations and must be considered estimations.

Quarterly figures included throughout this document correspond to cumulative entry and exit movements during the months of October through December of the year and do not represent a count of unique individuals.



## MOVEMENTS REPORT

# OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2023

## REGIONAL TRENDS AND KEY FINDINGS

Several changes in regional movement patterns were observed among refugees and migrants towards the end of 2023, compared with past years. This includes movements along the border between Colombia and Ecuador, where, in the last quarter of 2023, there were about 3 movements north for every 2 south, contributing to a greater balance of northward movements and reflective of a sustained movement trend northward observed over the past semester.<sup>1</sup> These movements of largely Venezuelan refugees and migrants were accompanied by an increasing number of Ecuadorian refugees and migrants leaving their country in the wake of a significant deterioration in the security situation and increasing social and economic uncertainty, particularly in Esmeraldas, Guayaquil and other coastal areas of the country.

In Peru, the last quarter of 2023 showed the first significant negative balance of entries versus exits since the onset of large-scale refugee and migrant outflows from Venezuela, with the majority of that negative balance owed to some 13K more departures to Ecuador than entries via Tumbes during the last three months of the year, a situation not previously observed - even for year-end travel in the same quarter of 2022.

In terms of yearly trends of movements of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in 2023, the number of northward exits from Peru, Ecuador and Colombia all outnumbered

southbound ones. Correspondingly, irregular arrivals to Panama increased from 2022 to 2023 by 119% (reaching 328,650 in 2023<sup>2</sup>). Other types of cross-border movements, including along the Andean Corridor, decreased in 2023 in comparison to 2022: southward movements from Ecuador to Peru reduced by 43% and those from Peru to Chile reduced by 59%,<sup>3</sup> while northward movements from Chile to Peru reduced by 53% and those from Peru to Ecuador reduced by 28%. This overall reduction in movements along the Andean Corridor, occurring in parallel with increases in northward exits from Colombia, suggests a significant number of Venezuelans have left Colombia and Venezuela, with an intention to move northward, with only 15% having previously obtained [documentation and/or regular status](#) in a prior host country. According to the National Migration Service (SNM) of the Government of Panama, Venezuelans, Ecuadorians and Colombians were all among the top 5 nationalities in-transit north through Panama in 2023, together with Haitians and Chinese.

Similar to previous years, movements of Venezuelans in the fourth quarter of 2023 were influenced by seasonally motivated travel, with refugees and migrants temporarily returning to their country of origin. Consistent with this, increased exits from Ecuador, Peru and Chile were observed in Q4 compared to Q3, with December marking the greatest number of monthly exits along the northern

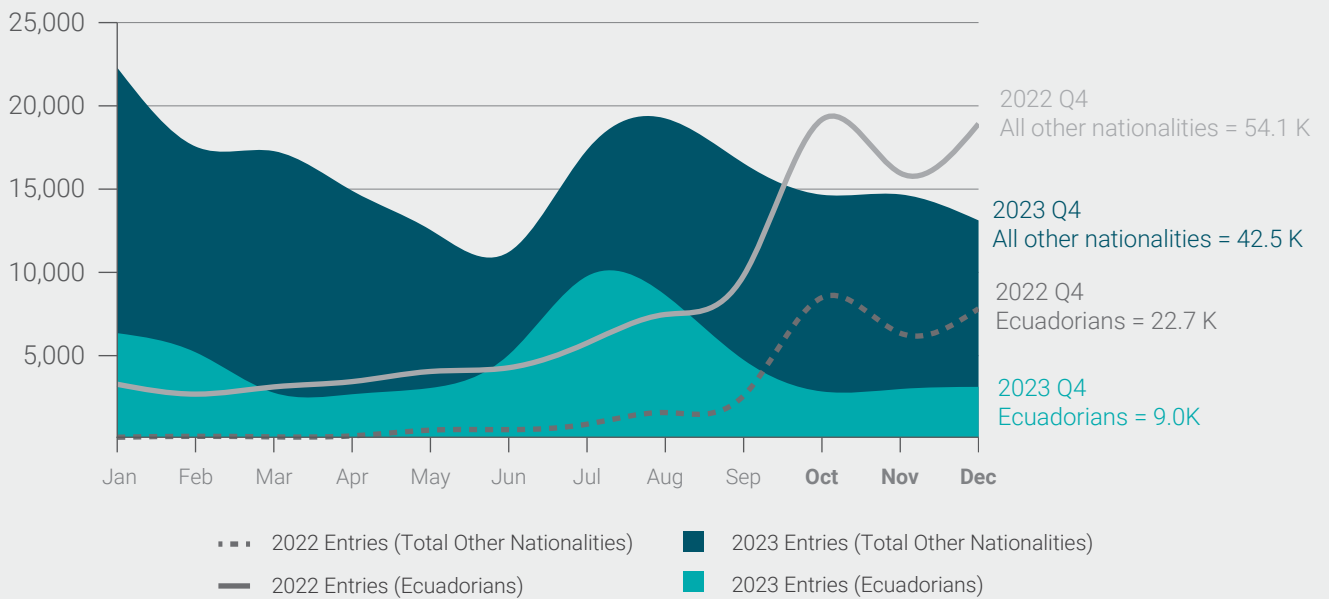
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- [1] In Q4 of 2023, according to data from the R4V National Platform in Ecuador (GTRM) there were 55,954 movements north of Venezuelans exiting from Ecuador to Colombia, while there were 37,685 movements south of Venezuelans entering Ecuador from Colombia.
  - [2] Out of a total of 520,085 irregular arrivals, Venezuelan refugees and migrants accounted for 328,650. For more details on the disaggregation of nationalities involved in this route, please see the below chapter on 'North-bound movements through Central America and Mexico'.
  - [3] Annual totals are available for exits from Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, while for exits from Chile, only Q4 of 2022 is available for comparison to Q4 of 2023.

borders of these countries, and the greatest number of departures from Colombia to Venezuela.

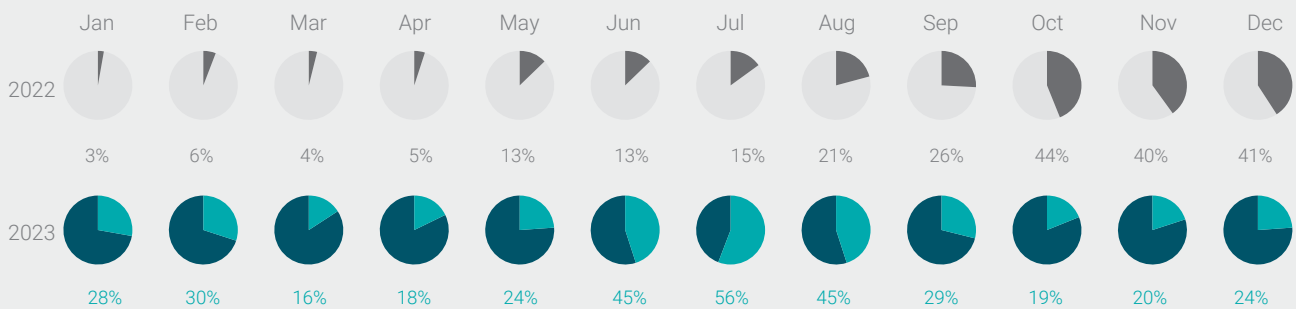
Related to the end-year holidays, northward movements through Panama and Costa Rica saw a reduction at the end of the year, with the number of refugees and migrants in-transit declining steadily as of August through

December. Ecuadorians were the only nationality among the top five nationalities in-transit through the Darien whose numbers increased in December compared to the previous two months. By November, over half a million people crossed irregularly through the Darien in 2023, with the total reaching 520,085 by the end of the year.

### IRREGULAR ENTRIES TO PANAMA VIA THE DARIEN JUNGLE FOR NATIONALITIES OTHER THAN VENEZUELAN



#### Proportion of Ecuadorians out of the total of other nationalities crossing the Darien



**Sources:**

Panama [National Migration Service](#)

## NORTH-BOUND MOVEMENTS THROUGH CENTRAL AMERICA AND MEXICO

### MAIN ROUTES USED BY REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN THE SUB-REGION



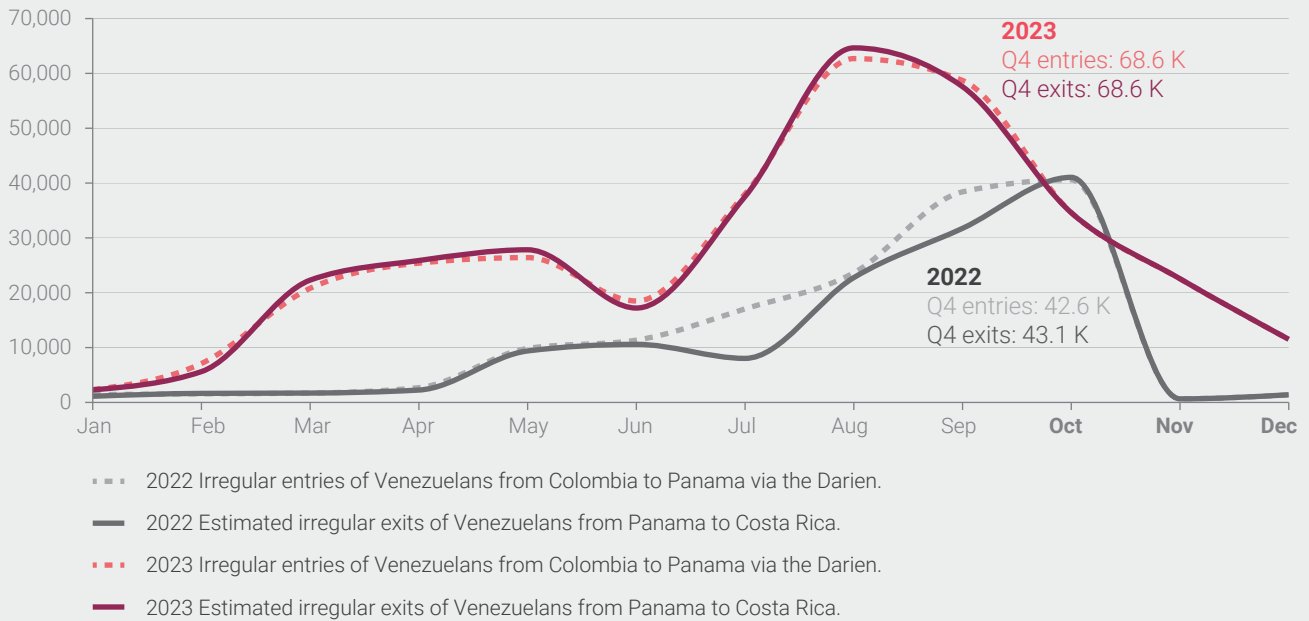
Movement trends across the region were characterized by increasing numbers of refugees and migrants undertaking dangerous journeys through Central America and Mexico, the vast majority intending to reach the United States of America (U.S.), with new records set in the number of irregular border crossings throughout the sub-region. According to [SNM](#) data, by end-December, over 520,000 people had crossed into Panama irregularly through the Darien jungle, including 328,650 Venezuelans (63%), 57,250 Ecuadorians (11%), 46,422 Haitians (9%) and 25,565 Chinese (5%), more than doubling the number of total crossings reported in 2022 (248,284).

Against this background, on 6 October 2023, the Governments of Panama and Costa Rica agreed to [bus transportation](#) being available for refugees and migrants (for an individual fee of USD 60) directly from the temporary reception centres (ETRM) in Panama's Darien region to the centralized government-run Bicentennial

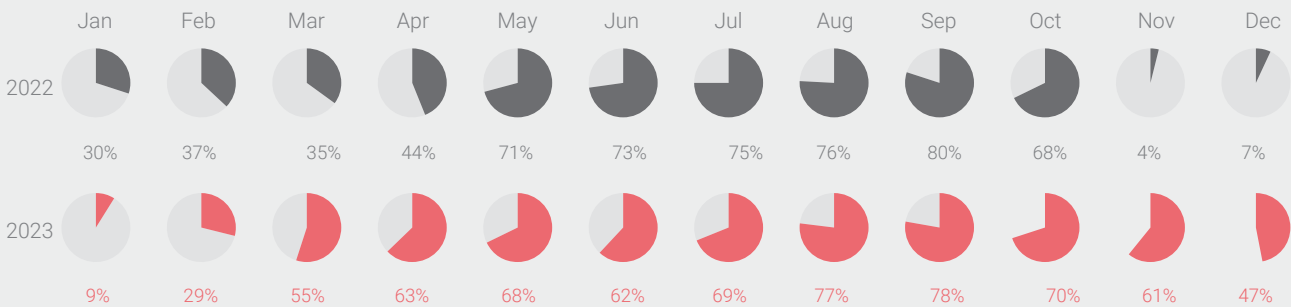
South Migration Station (EMISUR) in Costa Rica. This followed the Government of Costa Rica's declaration of a [state of emergency](#) on 29 September 2023 due to the high number of refugees and migrants in-transit through the country.

Despite the record numbers of refugees and migrants engaged in irregular movements in 2023, the final quarter of the year saw a slight decrease in the rate of entries to **Panama**. In line with historical trends linked to year-end holidays, data from Panama's SNM shows a gradual decrease in irregular entries between October (49,256), November (37,231) and December (24,626), amounting to an overall 48% decrease from the previous quarter. This drop in movements may also be linked to [national protests in Panama](#) in October and November, which resulted in road blockages and disruptions in bus services transporting refugees and migrants from the Darien to the border with Costa Rica, leaving many to continue

## ESTIMATED IRREGULAR ENTRIES AND EXITS OF VENEZUELAN TO AND FROM PANAMA



### Monthly proportion of Venezuelan nationals among total irregular entries to Panama



#### Notes:

It is estimated that approximately 71.2% of the Venezuelan flows observed in Q4 correspond to irregular entries and exits. In addition to the irregular figures showcased in the graph, [SNM](#) reports a cumulative figure of 24.9 K regular entries and 30.6 K regular exits of Venezuelans in the last quarter of 2023.

Since the governments of Panama and Costa Rica started facilitating transportation to refugees and migrants directly from the ETRM in Darien to EMISUR in Costa Rica in October, exit data from the DTM in the ETRM in Gualaca is no longer included in this report. Hence, in the last quarter, the irregular entries data was also used to estimate irregular exits from Panama to Costa Rica.

#### Source:

Panama [National Migration Service \(SNM\)](#).

their journeys on foot or stranded at the ETRMs. These transportation services resumed service only towards the end of December.

Meanwhile, **Mexico** observed continued movements of refugees and migrants of multiple nationalities towards the country's northern border with the U.S. Between October and December, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection ([CBP](#)) reported 132.8K encounters with Venezuelans crossing the border irregularly from Mexico, slightly higher than the 117K encounters reported in Q3

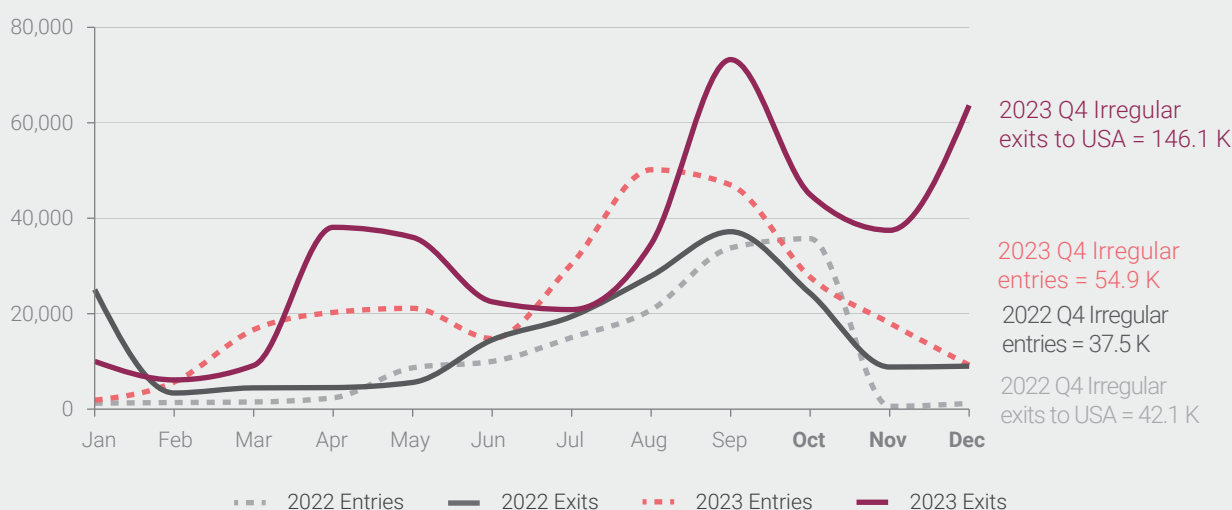
and representing an almost 250% increase compared to the same period in 2022 (38.3K).

To mitigate prevalent security risks (see below for details) many refugees and migrants move through Mexico in larger groups. For example, on [30 October](#) some 3.0 K refugees and migrants departed jointly from Tapachula (Chiapas), and on [24 December](#) some 7.0 K persons embarked on their common journey northwards from the same city.

In October, the Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance (COMAR) suspended issuing registration appointment slips to asylum-seekers to avoid the misuse of such documents to transit the country. As a result, pre-registration for asylum processes in Tapachula dropped by 60% from the third quarter of 2023 (from close to 87.0K in Q3 to 34.8K in Q4). In parallel, the National Migration Institute (INM) suspended issuing Temporary

Humanitarian Visitor's Cards (TVRH) to asylum-seekers and migrants, leading to limited access to services and rights, increasing risks of detention and deportation. As a result, R4V partners reported that many asylum-seekers abandoned their asylum processes or moved onward north instead of staying in Southern Mexico to await a decision on their claims.

## ESTIMATED IRREGULAR ENTRIES AND EXITS OF VENEZUELAN TO AND FROM MEXICO



**Note:**

The number of irregular entries is based on a proportion of irregular crossings through the Darien. In 2023, this proportion is estimated to be around 80% using IOM-DTM Guatemala data on in-transit populations. The irregular exits to the USA are estimated as per the number of "encounters" reported by the U.S. [Customs and Border Protection](#) and R4V Mexico Platform estimates of the irregular flows that are not intercepted by CBP (some 10% of all encounters based on IOM DTM data).

In addition to this irregular data, in October and November, 13.2 K regular entries by air and land were reported upon request by the INM in Mexico considering the number of Multiple Immigration Forms (FMMs) registered. Likewise, some 5.3 K regular exits were reported by the INM considering the number of FMMs registered, in addition to the figures of deportations and returns published by the UPM unit of the Governance Secretariat in its [Monthly Statistical Bulletin](#).

\*The number of "encounters" does not equal the individuals who attempted to cross the border, as a given individual may attempt to cross multiple times (and will be counted as multiple "encounters").

According to R4V partners and media reports, an increase in protection concerns was reported among in-transit populations in the final quarter of the year, including kidnappings and extorsions by organized criminal groups, particularly in Ciudad Juarez and Tamaulipas state, which led many to miss their CBP One appointments in the U.S. One such incident occurred on 30 December, when [31 refugees and migrants were kidnapped](#) in Reynosa while traveling on a bus to Mexico's border with the U.S. The group – comprised of nationals from Venezuela, Ecuador, Colombia, Honduras and Mexico, including children –

was rescued on 3 January by the Mexican authorities.

In regard to push and pull factors, an [R4V partner's survey](#) of refugees and migrants in-transit through the Darien in Panama showed that 75% of those having previously resided in a country other than their country of origin indicated that lack of access to employment was their main reason for leaving/moving on from that previous host country. For those who had departed directly from their country of origin, reasons for leaving were predominantly linked to violence and insecurity (63%) and lack of access to employment (62%). The worsening



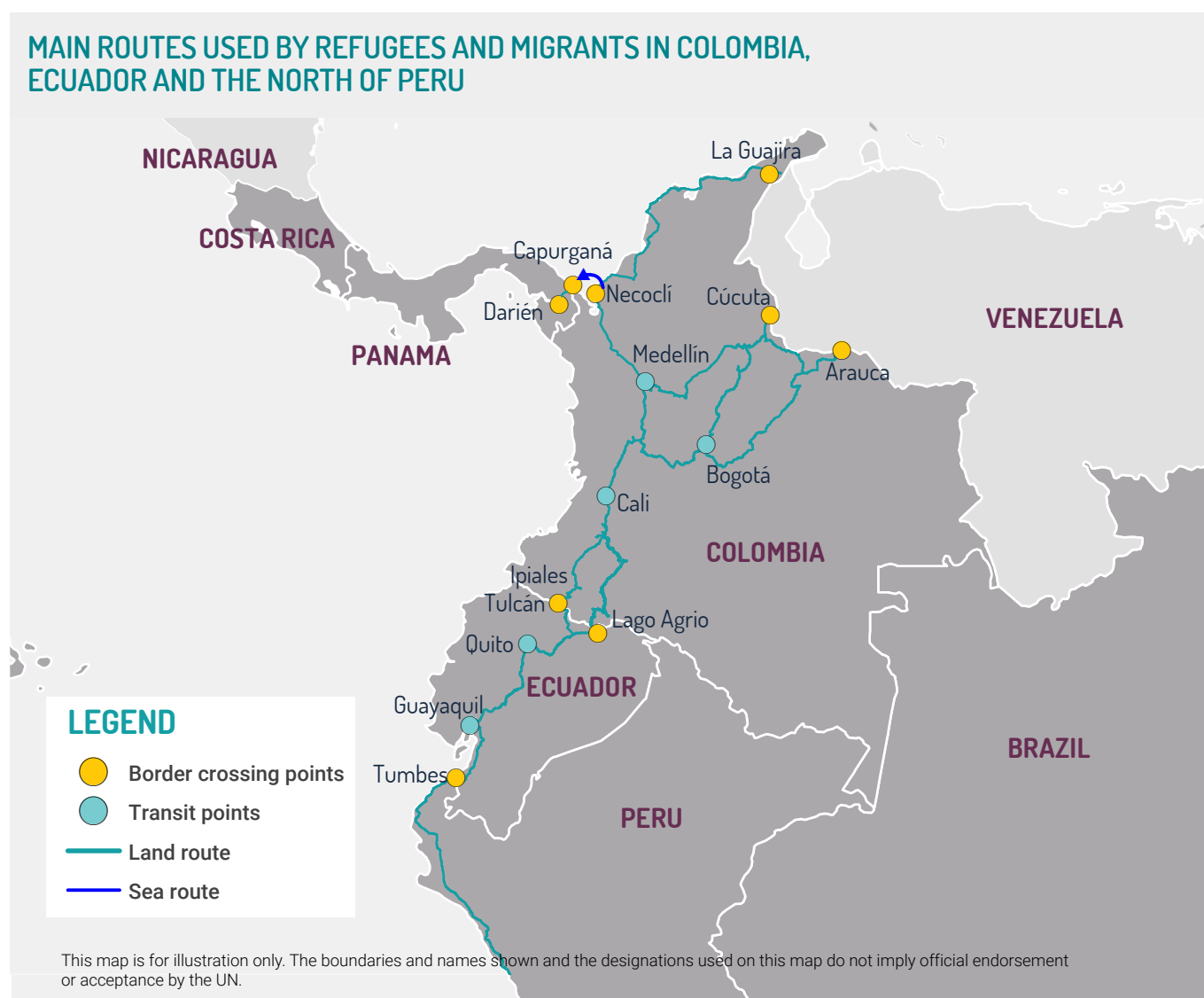
security situation in Ecuador is understood to be a contributing factor of this increase, both for Ecuadorians but also for Venezuelans who were living in Ecuador: 71% of Ecuadorians interviewed in Panama, Costa Rica and Mexico during this period by an R4V partner said that they left Ecuador due to violence (either generalized violence or after having been victims of violence themselves).<sup>4</sup>

During the reporting period, 26 Venezuelans were [deported](#) from Panama, bringing the total number of deportations of Venezuelans from Panama in 2023 to 99. Separately, a total of 680 voluntary returns of Venezuelans

from Panama were reported in 2023, with 171 voluntary returns taking place between October and December.

Meanwhile, in Mexico, between October and December, 199 assisted returns were recorded, including 13 children. Out of the assisted returns, 166 took place in December, after the Governments of Mexico and Venezuela agreed to restart repatriation flights to Venezuela, with the first two repatriation flights leaving Mexico between 29 and 30 December.

## MULTI-DIRECTIONAL MOVEMENTS IN SOUTH AMERICA



[4] UNHCR Mixed Movements Monitoring (MMM), Ecuadorians interviewed in Panama, Costa Rica and Mexico from October-December 2023. Internal data shared with R4V.

## COLOMBIA

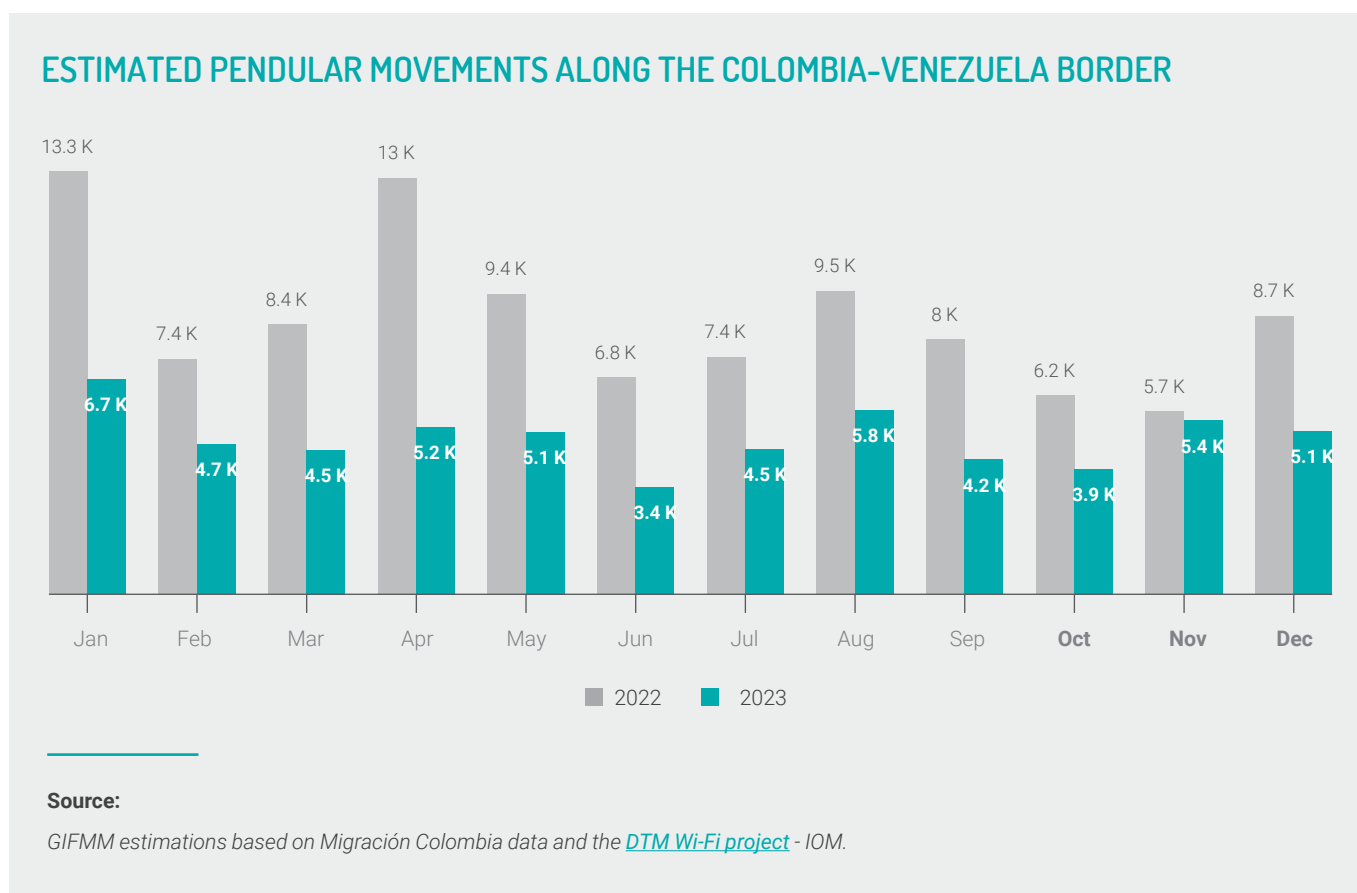
Following the significant increase in the number of exits registered in Q3 (primarily due to departures to Panama), the overall estimated exits<sup>5</sup> from Colombia dropped in the fourth quarter (263.4K exits in Q4 vs 358.7K in Q3). As a result, while the overall balance of arrivals versus exits was negative in Colombia, the contrast between the number of arrivals and exits was less pronounced in Q4 (a negative balance of 24.8K) than Q3 (a negative balance of 102.3K).

Concerning exits from Colombia to Venezuela, while there was a slight decrease in the fourth quarter (121.5K) compared to the previous one (123.1K), the month of December saw the largest number of monthly departures in 2023 at 51.1K exits. Most exits were registered in Norte de Santander, where an estimated 37.5K Venezuelans crossed in December. As observed across the region and in line with historical trends, the temporary increase in return movements to Venezuela in December can be attributed to year-end celebrations.

Intention surveys conducted by an R4V partner<sup>6</sup> with refugees and migrants from Venezuela who are already engaging in these return movements at the border between Colombia and Venezuela showed that 45% of respondents exiting the country for Venezuela did not intend to return to Colombia following their stay in Venezuela, while 21% expressed that they planned to return to Colombia. An additional 20% preferred not to respond and 14% were uncertain about their plans.

During the fourth quarter, [Migración Colombia](#) noted an increase in refugees and migrants irregularly leaving the country by boat from San Andrés Island to Nicaragua, and detected 207 people using this route between October and December. Although small overall, this represented a 110% increase compared to the previous quarter, when only 98 people were identified using the same route.

Meanwhile, entries to Colombia from Venezuela remained overall stable during the fourth quarter compared to the previous quarter, with only a small drop observed in the estimated entries in Q4 (167.6K) from Q3 (187.3K).

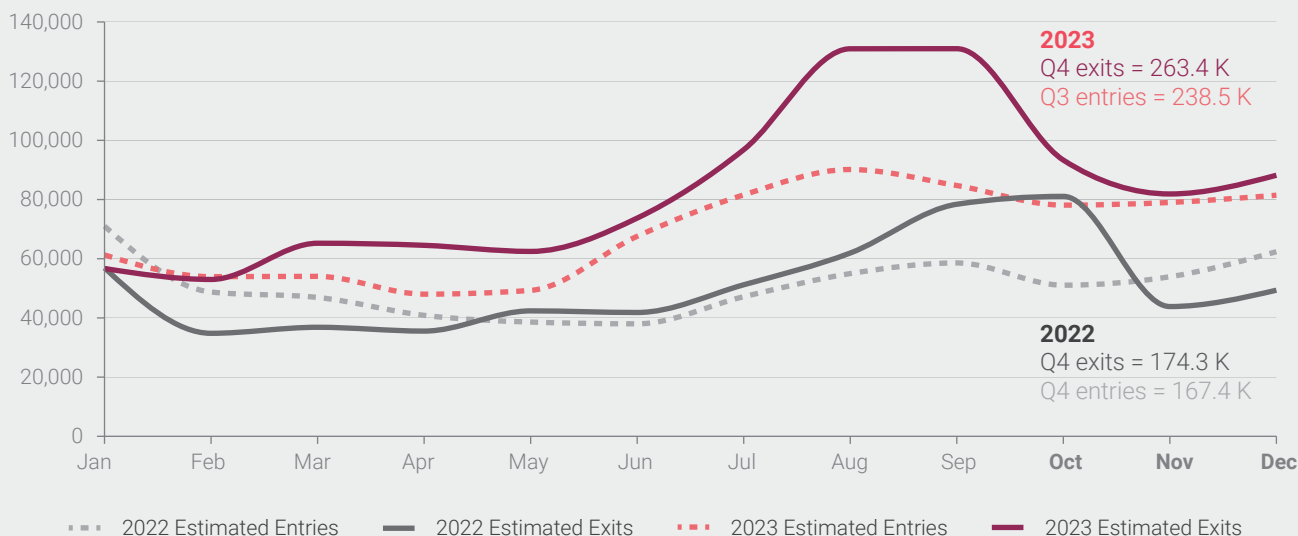


[5] Official data on regular exits from Migración Colombia and estimates of irregular movements by the R4V National Platform in Colombia (GIFMM).

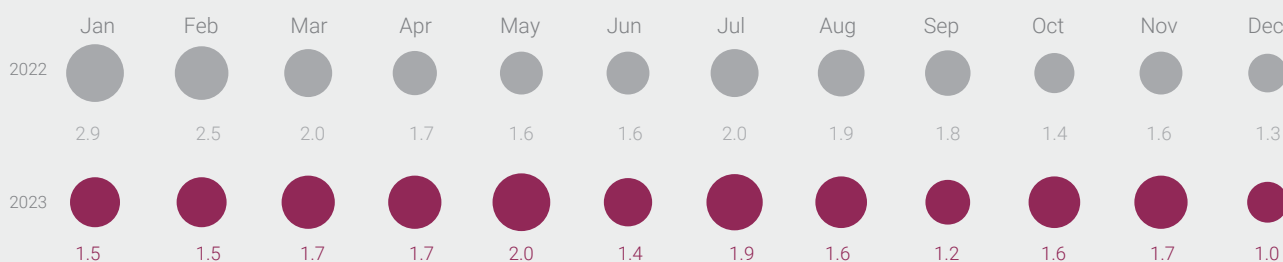
[6] IOM, [DTM Wi-Fi Flow Monitoring](#).



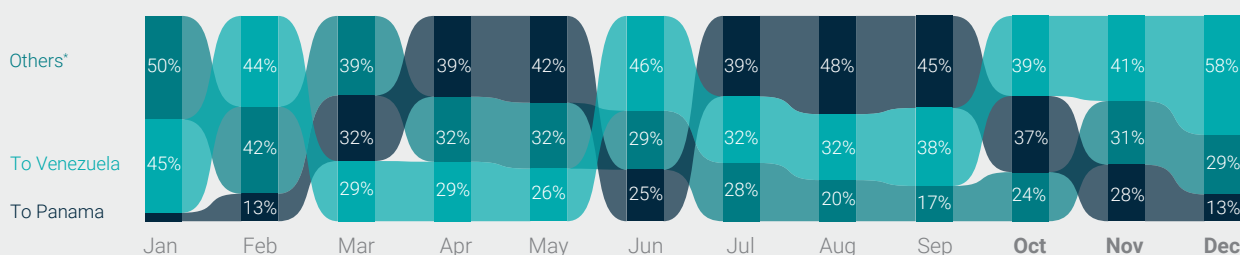
## TOTAL ESTIMATED ENTRIES AND EXITS OF VENEZUELANES TO AND FROM COLOMBIA



### Ratio of outflows from Venezuela vs. return movements to Venezuela (i.e. number of entries to Colombia per 1 exit to Venezuela)



### Proportion of total 2023 exits to Venezuela and Panama



#### Notes:

Estimated entries and exits data do not include pendular movements along the border, which amount to 14.5K in Q4 2023.

In the current quarter, approximately 70% of all entries and 46% of all exits took place via the land border with Venezuela.

In June 2023, adjustments were made to the database and data collection form in the DTM-WiFi project, affecting the figures for this period onwards. It is recommended to avoid comparisons with previous reports to maintain analysis coherence. These changes are methodological and do not reflect a change in the context of the movements.

\* This includes Ecuador and the Caribbean, as well as exits by air to other global destinations.

#### Sources:

i) Regular flows: [Tableau dashboard](#) on Migration Flows of Foreigners in 2022 and 2023 - Migración Colombia

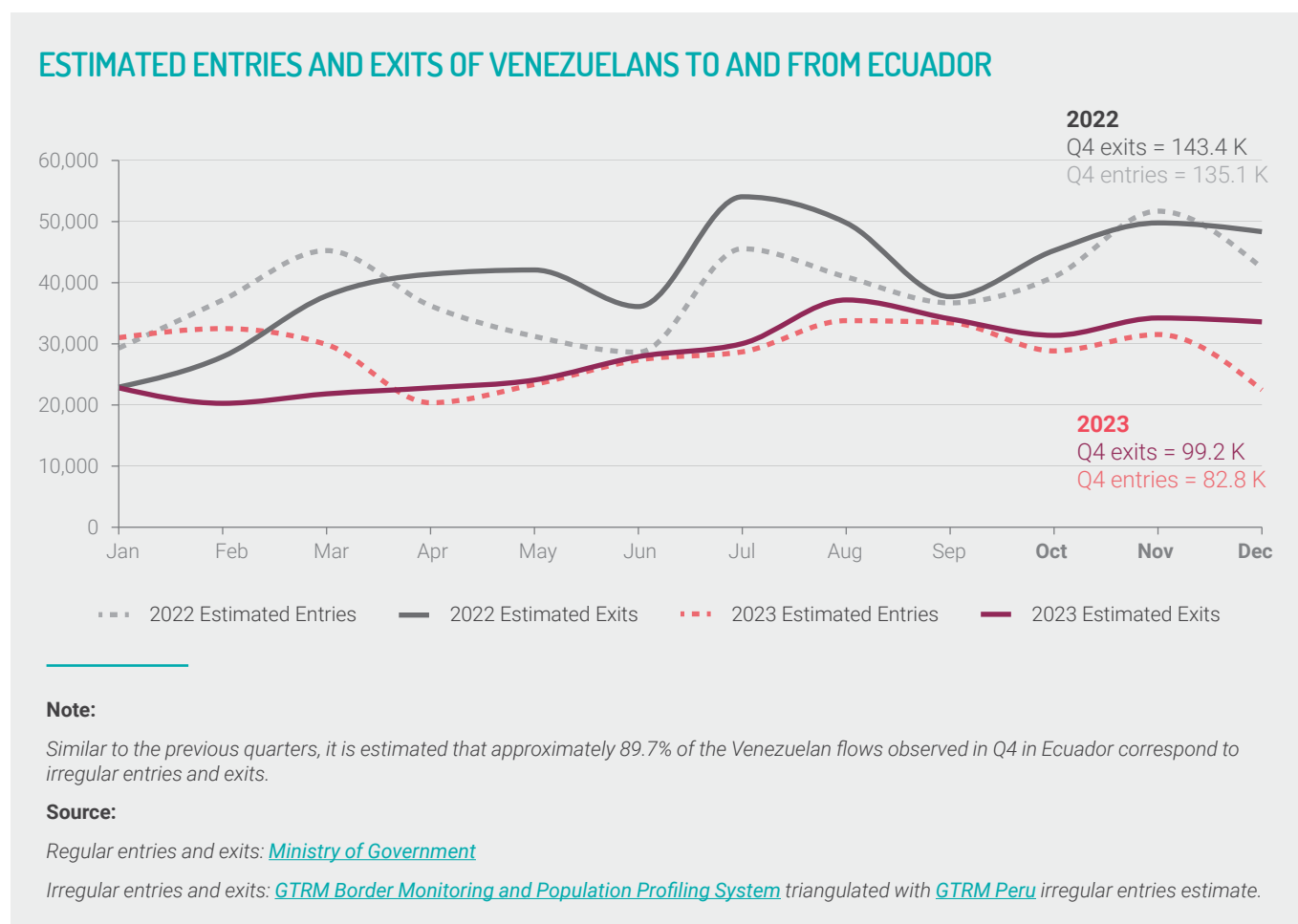
ii) Irregular flows: [DTM Wi-Fi project](#) - IOM in context of the GIFMM. Data from 42 Wi-Fi points at 9 departments: Arauca, Casanare, Cauca, La Guajira, Nariño, Norte de Santander, Putumayo, Santander, and Valle del Cauca. Irregular flows are calculated combining data from i) and ii).

## ECUADOR

Movements of Venezuelan refugees and migrants to/ from Ecuador were lower in 2023 than during the previous year, with both entries and exits consistently remaining below 2022 levels (annual entries reduced by 26% and exits reduced by 31%). The total balance for 2023 was slightly positive (3,040 more Venezuelans entered than exited the country) owing to a large number of entries in Q1, despite a negative balance for the last three quarters of 2023; this pattern (more entries in Q1 followed by more exits in Q2-Q3-Q4) was consistent with that of 2022, but 2022 resulted in an overall larger negative balance (of 27,100 people). In terms of irregular movements, the R4V National Platform’s (GTRM) Border Monitoring and Profiling System (SMFCF) estimated an average of 887 daily irregular entries in 2023, compared to 1,220 daily entries in 2022. Similarly, estimated average daily exits in 2023 reached only 837, compared with the 1,257 daily exits the year before.

The overall decrease in movements can partly be attributed to growing insecurity and increasing criminal violence in Ecuador.<sup>7</sup> The security situation not only impacts refugees’ and migrants’ intentions to settle or remain in the country, but also created a push factor for Venezuelans and host communities alike to seek opportunities elsewhere. Among Ecuadorians interviewed in-transit in Costa Rica, Mexico and Panama during this period by an R4V partner, 71% said that they left their country of origin because of violence (either generalized violence or after having been a victim of violence).<sup>8</sup>

As already reported in [Q3](#), the shift in directionality of exit movements was cemented further in the final three months of 2023. During the fourth quarter, departures via the northern border (646 daily exits) were almost double the number of departures via the southern border (307 exits), underscoring the trend of northward movements in Ecuador.



[7] <https://www.datosabiertos.gob.ec/dataset/>

[8] UNHCR and WFP Mixed Movements Monitoring, Ecuadorians interviewed in Panama, Costa Rica and Mexico from October-December 2023. Internal data shared with R4V.

During the fourth quarter, irregular entries to Ecuador through the northern border with Colombia also reached their all-time low since the beginning of border monitoring through the SMFCF. This is attributable in part

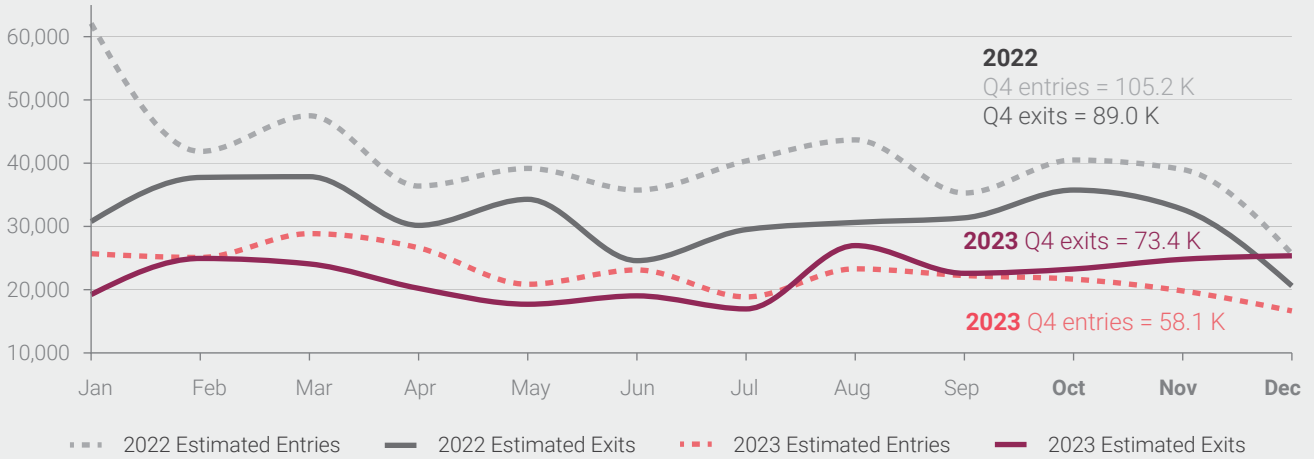
to the aforementioned situation in Ecuador, as well as to the increasing northward departures from Colombia, resulting in fewer southward movements to Ecuador.

### MAIN ROUTES USED BY REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN PERU, BOLIVIA, BRAZIL, CHILE, ARGENTINA, PARAGUAY AND URUGUAY

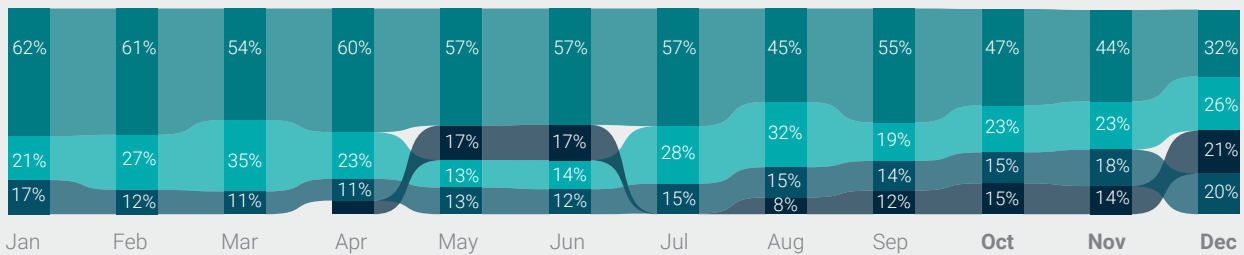


PERU

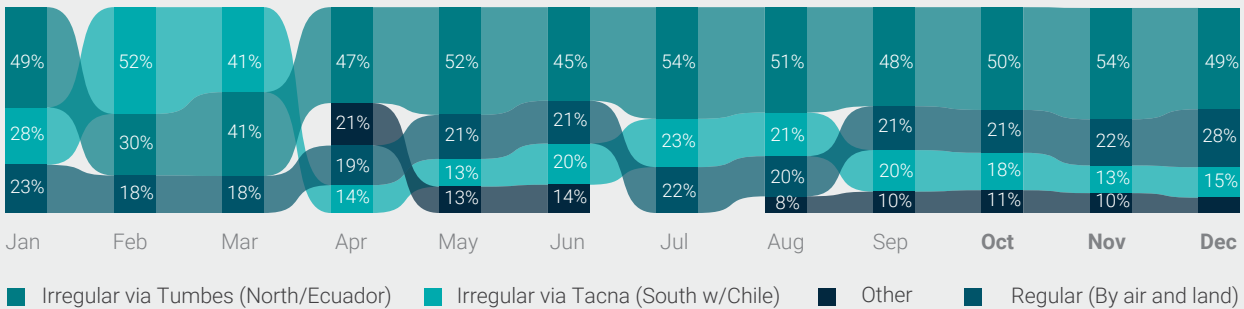
ESTIMATED ENTRIES AND EXITS OF VENEZUELAN TO AND FROM PERU



Distribution of total 2023 entries by crossing point



Distribution of total 2023 exits by crossing point



Note:

The estimates of irregular movements during the first quarter of 2023 as well as for July do not include figures from the land border with Bolivia, as monitoring exercises by R4V partners in Desaguadero were temporarily suspended there, due to social and political events within Peru.

Sources:

Regular entries and exits: Superintendencia of Migration of Peru.

Irregular entries and exits: [IOM DTM Flow Monitoring Registry](#) in Tacna, Tumbes, and Desaguadero triangulated with [GTRM Ecuador](#) irregular movement estimates.

In October and November, the government and the R4V response community in Peru focused on the national regularization programme for refugees and migrants, which ended on 10 November. Further to facilitating

regularization for refugees and migrants, the Government also enacted new provisions in the [Migration Law](#), the Criminal Code and in the Criminal Procedure Code establishing a procedure for the [expulsion](#) of foreign

nationals convicted of criminal offences, while [irregular re-entry](#) into the country would be punishable. The impact of these new legislative measures will be subject to further reporting.

The [extension](#) of the state of emergency, originally issued in Q2, through Q4, allowing for continued border control and surveillance by the police and military forces, and seasonal movement trends of Venezuelan refugees and migrants also impacted entry and exit dynamics in Peru in the fourth quarter.

These changes occurred while an increasing rate of Venezuelans chose to move north from countries like Colombia and Ecuador, leading to fewer arrivals in Peru, with the number of **entries** dropping each quarter in 2023 (79.6K in Q1, 70.6K in Q2, 64.4K in Q3 and 58.1K in Q4). The decrease was most apparent in Tumbes, at the northern border with Ecuador, where irregular entries in Q4 were almost 30% lower than the previous quarter, with November and December recording the lowest monthly entry estimates over the past two years.

In Tacna, at the southern border with Chile, a decrease in entries by 17% was observed from Q3 to Q4. According to data collected by the R4V National Platform (GTRM) in Peru, a majority of refugees and migrants entering Peru at this border indicated that they previously resided in Chile (86%) and left due to difficulties generating a steady income.

Meanwhile, at the southeast border points with Desaguadero (Bolivia) and Madre de Dios (Brazil), entry figures for the fourth quarter remained similar to the previous three months. Pursuant to R4V partners' border

surveys between October and December, most persons entering from Brazil via Madre de Dios (94%) indicated entering Peru for the first time, with 90% expressing an intention to remain in the country. In Desaguadero, only 26% of the Venezuelans interviewed upon entering Peru indicated that it was their first time, with 9% of the Venezuelans intending to remain in Peru.

In regard to exit movements, 11% more refugees and migrants departed from Peru in the fourth quarter (73.4K) compared to Q3 (66.5K). The largest increase in exits was observed in the north, at Tumbes, where some 37,500 persons exited in Q4, representing an over 10% increase from Q3 (33,900) and the highest recorded estimate of exits in 2023. December was also the only month in 2023 where exits from Peru to Ecuador were greater than those recorded in the corresponding month of 2022. This increase in exits is likely due to the combination of factors previously described, such as the increasingly restrictive laws in Peru and the holiday season. Additionally, for those who had not regularized their status, upon closure of the regularization process, the government established a so-called ["safe passage" at the northern border](#) between the Aguas Verdes terminal and the International Bridge in Tumbes, providing for an exit route to Ecuador. Among those surveyed by R4V partners upon departure, some 50% indicated they were returning to Venezuela (at least temporarily), while 26-33% said they planned to travel to Colombia, 16% to the U.S. and 6-17% to remain in Ecuador.<sup>9</sup>

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## CHILE

Strict entry and exit requirements continued to impact movement dynamics in Chile, leaving those who do not meet formal requirements to opt for irregular entry and stay. While irregular entries estimated in Q4 (23.5K) were similar to the previous quarter (24.9K), the number of irregular exits decreased by 25% between Q3 (24.0K) and Q4 (18.0K). This decrease in irregular exits can be attributed to the security measures and efforts of the Government of Chile to reduce irregular movements along its borders.

In terms of regular movements, the month of December marked an annual high for regular exits, with 25.6K exits (compared to 17.1K in October and 17.3K in November). While the increase in regular exits from Chile may be associated with seasonal end-year travels, they appear to also be related to broader regional movement patterns and the trend towards increasing northward movements.

Also as noted in previous reports, weather and geographical conditions, combined with the terrain and distances involved, influence the routes that refugees and migrants use when entering and exiting the country.

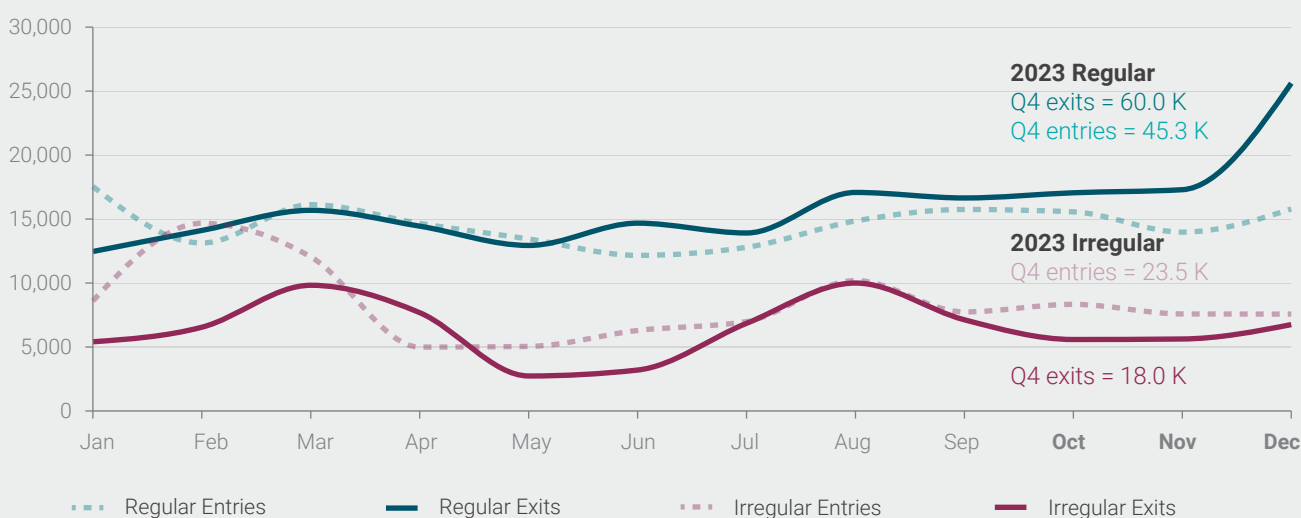
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[9] UNHCR, HIAS, Análisis Trimestral de Monitoreo de Frontera en Tumbes (September- 2023); IOM, DTM Flow Monitoring Survey in Tumbes, Round 24 (December 2023).

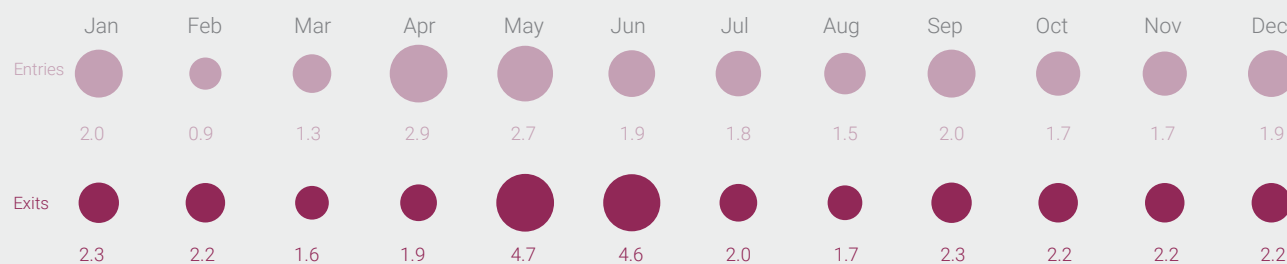
Irregular exits remained higher at the Chile-Peru border (13.2K) than at the Chile-Bolivia border (4.7K) in the fourth quarter. Nevertheless, due to more favorable climatic conditions associated with the summer season in Colchane, the border between Chile and Bolivia saw an increase in refugees and migrants crossing in Q4 (12.8K entries and 4.7K exits) compared to Q3 (7.3K entries and 2.1K exits in Q3).

The continuous presence of the Chilean military at the country's northern borders, coupled with the installation of additional [observation points and infrastructure](#) in Colchane also impacted the overall number of refugees and migrants entering Chile. According to the government, the strengthened border measures in 2023 led to a 29% reduction in irregular entries between February and October 2023, compared to the same period in 2022.

### ESTIMATED ENTRIES AND EXITS OF VENEZUELANs TO AND FROM CHILE IN 2023



#### Proportion of regular vs irregular entries/exits of Venezuelans in Chile (i.e. number of regular entries/exits for each irregular entry/exit)



**Note:**

The data in the line graph include regular entries and exits in all borders, as well as estimated irregular movements to/from Peru and Bolivia.

**Sources:**

Regular entries and exits: Investigations Police of Chile (PDI), data upon request.

Irregular entries and exits in the borders with Bolivia and Peru: IOM DTMs in the border points of [Pisiga/Colchane](#), and [Tacna/Arica](#)

### SOUTHERN CONE SUB-REGION

While the sub-region is largely characterized by regular movements, in **Bolivia** irregular crossings from/to Peru and Chile continued to prevail among the predominantly transit movements of refugees and migrants. Through

its border monitoring, an R4V partner reported a significant increase in entries at the Colchane-Pisiga border with Chile in Q4 (4.9K), nearly doubling those reported in Q3 (2.6K). As noted in the Chile section, the



rise in movements across the Colchane-Pisiga border is attributed to the summer season and favorable weather conditions, encouraging wider use of these high-altitude routes. For similar reasons, estimated exits from Bolivia to Chile in the fourth quarter (13.0K) were over 70% higher than the previous quarter (8.1K).

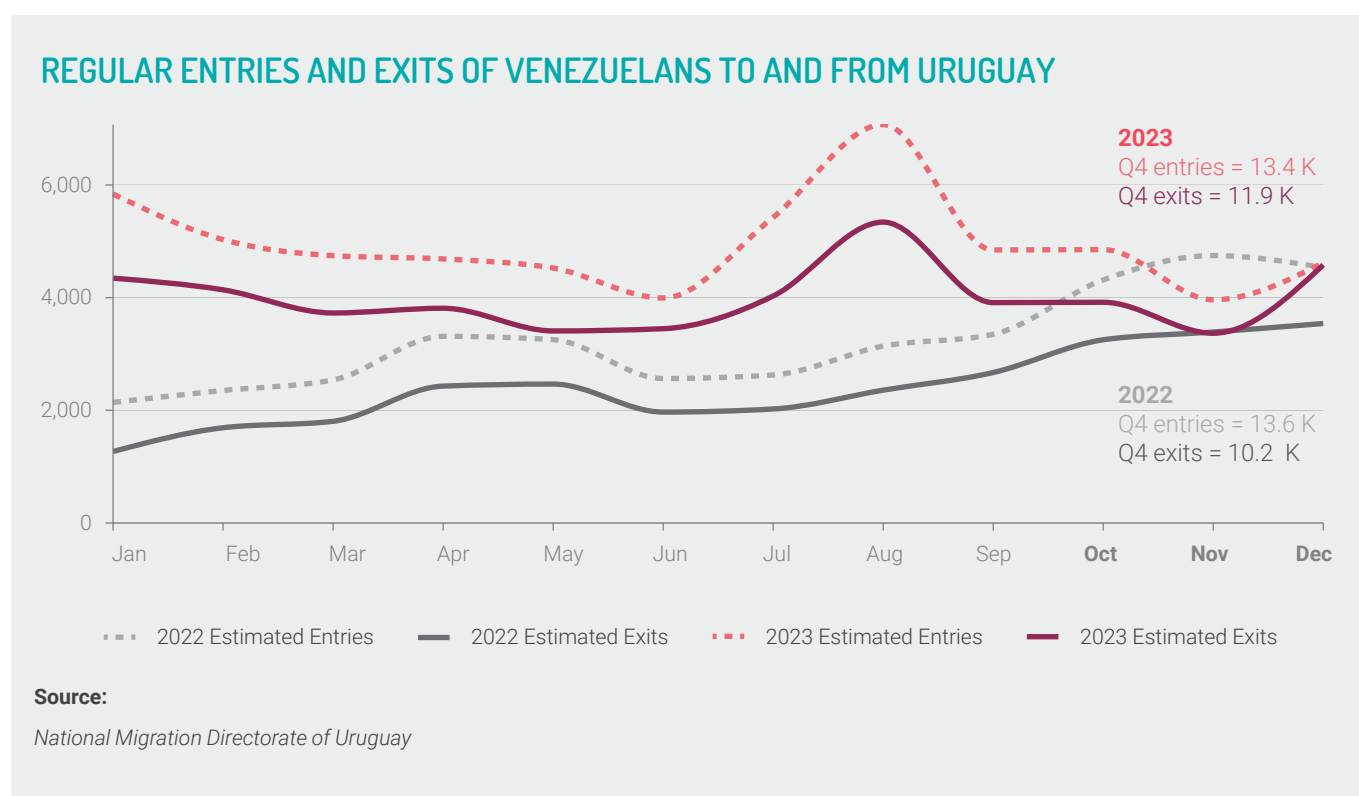
At the Desaguadero border between Bolivia and Peru, an R4V partner estimated through its border monitoring that both entry movements were similar to the previous quarter. An average of 85 daily entries and 103 exits were estimated for the months of October, November and December.<sup>10</sup>

In **Paraguay**, the balance of entries and exits of Venezuelan refugees and migrants was slightly negative (116 more exits than entries in Q4), with the fourth quarter recording similar figures as the third quarter. Only in August and November did the number of entries slightly surpass exits from Paraguay in 2023. A majority of entries

(65%) and exits (82%) were observed through the Silvio Pettirossi International Airport, followed by the land border crossings with Argentina at the port of José Falcon/Clorinda and the San Roque González Bridge. As with previous periods, it is understood that a high proportion of the land movements are of a pendular nature.

While the positive balance of entries and exits in **Uruguay** prevailed in October 2023, throughout the reporting period, more Venezuelan refugees and migrants arrived to the country than departed. There were 13,435 regular entries of Venezuelans to the country while only 11,867 exits were recorded by the National Migration Directorate in Uruguay during October, November and December.

*Since the transition of the new national government in **Argentina** (10 December), no official data on entries and/or exits, including for Q4 of 2023, has been provided by the authorities.*



## BRAZIL

Movement trends remained stable in Brazil throughout the fourth quarter of 2023, with entries (48,009) remaining comparable to the previous quarter (48,823). Consistent with the annual trend, entries in the last quarter of 2023

were 13% greater than entries in the same period of 2022; while also in Brazil seasonal trends contributed to a noticeable decrease in entries in December, dropping to 13,300, compared to 16,800 in October and 17,900

[10] IOM, DTM Peru (Desaguadero).

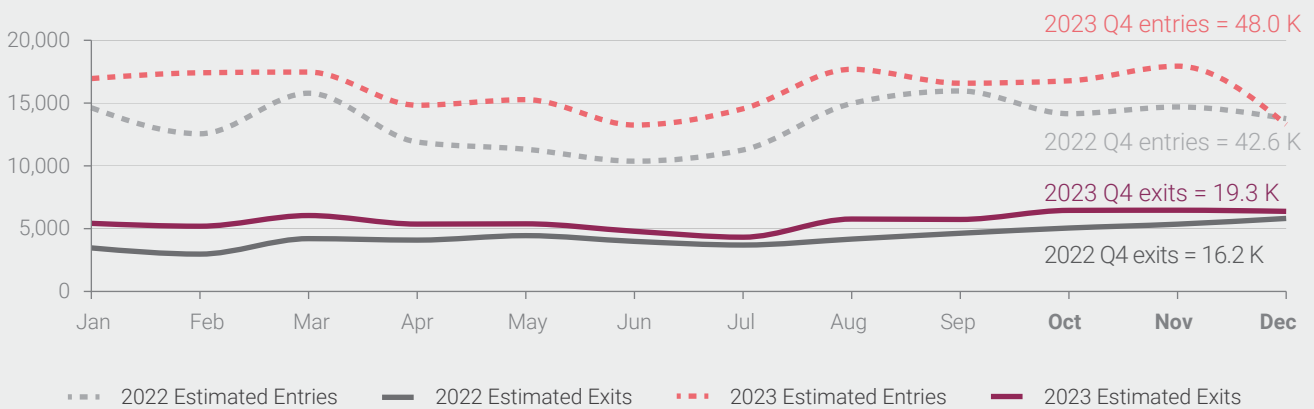
in November. Inversely, and for the same reason, exit movements in the fourth quarter reached their highest level of the year (19,300 in Q4) with most exits recorded in Pacaraima, the main border crossing to Venezuela.

Meanwhile, entries and exits at the border with Peru remained at an estimated average of 367 entries per month and 48 exits per month during the final quarter of 2023, consistent with movement dynamics [reported earlier](#) in the year.

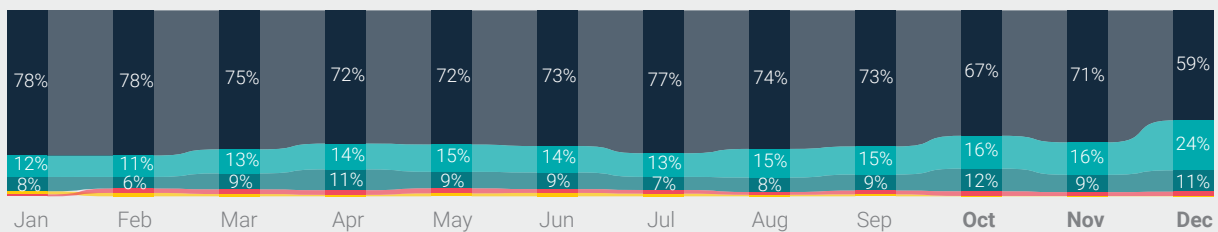
Among Venezuelans interviewed by R4V partners upon exiting the country at Pacaraima, a substantial majority

(89%) expressed their intention to return to Brazil after a brief period. In December, an even higher percentage of Venezuelans interviewed upon departure (97%) stated to have plans for only a temporary stay in the country of origin. Linked to these seasonal movement dynamics and temporary return intentions, in contrast to previous quarters, the percentage of Venezuelans who indicated that they intended to return to their country of origin permanently decreased to 11%, compared to 18.3% in the previous quarter. Among those expressing an intention to permanently leave Brazil, some 52% cited a lack of job opportunities as the reason for returning to Venezuela.

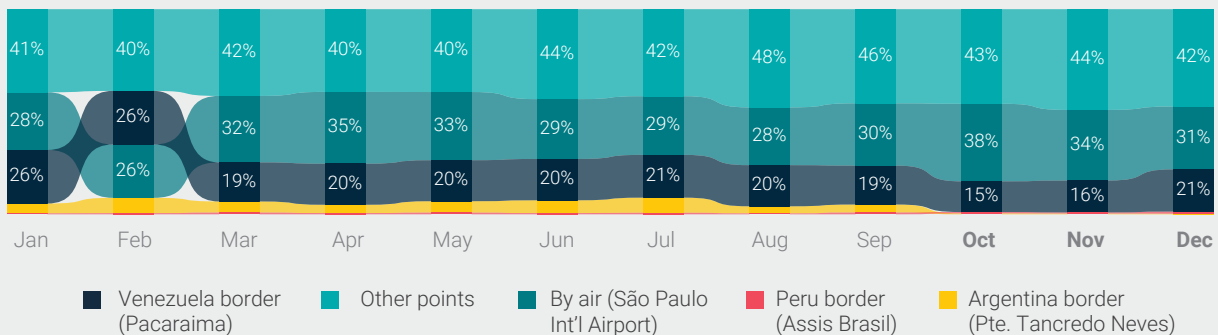
### REGULAR ENTRIES AND EXITS OF VENEZUELANs TO AND FROM BRAZIL



#### Distribution of total 2023 entries by crossing point



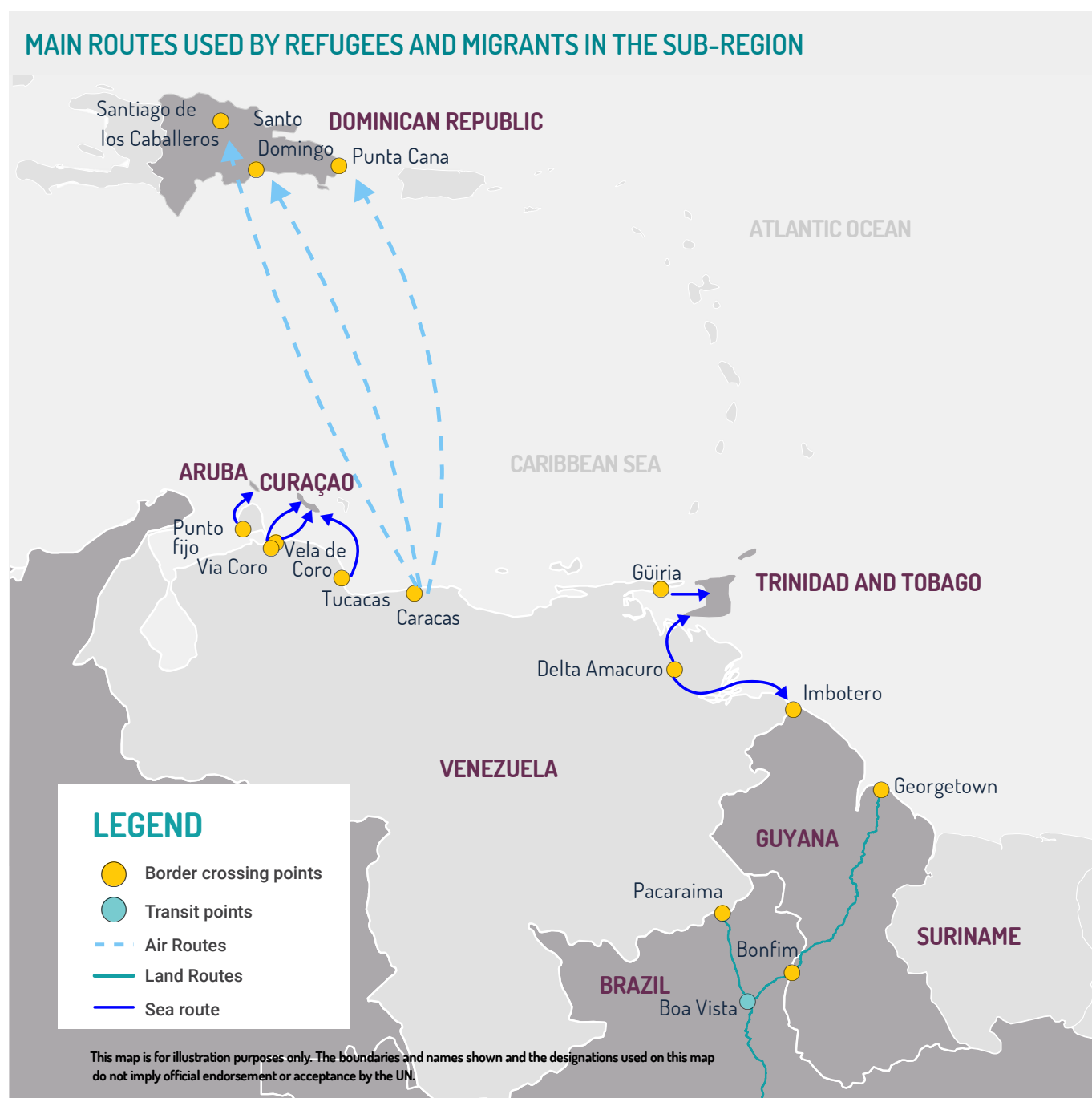
#### Distribution of total 2023 exits by crossing point



**Source:**

Brazilian Federal Police's International Traffic System: Observatory of International Migration (OBMigra) [Migration Reports 2022](#) and [2023](#).

## CARIBBEAN SUB-REGION



Irregular fluvial entries of refugees and migrants from Venezuela (by sea or river) and instances of boat interceptions, detentions and deportations were frequently reported during the fourth quarter of the year.

With the high tourism season taking place in **Aruba** in November and December, some Venezuelans were incentivized by the growing demand in the informal labour market to seek employment opportunities. Combined with more favorable sea conditions, with calmer winds and a reduced risk of storms around the island during this

period, Aruba saw an increase in irregular arrivals by boat. According to media reports, four boats were intercepted arriving between October and December ([3 October](#), [22 October](#), [2 November](#) and [19 December](#)) carrying over 70 Venezuelans and three Colombians. Furthermore, two incidents were reported of [capsized boats](#) on their way to Aruba in December. While all nine Venezuelans reportedly on board the first boat disembarked in Colombia, among the 15 passengers aboard the second boat four tragically died and a number of persons are still missing.

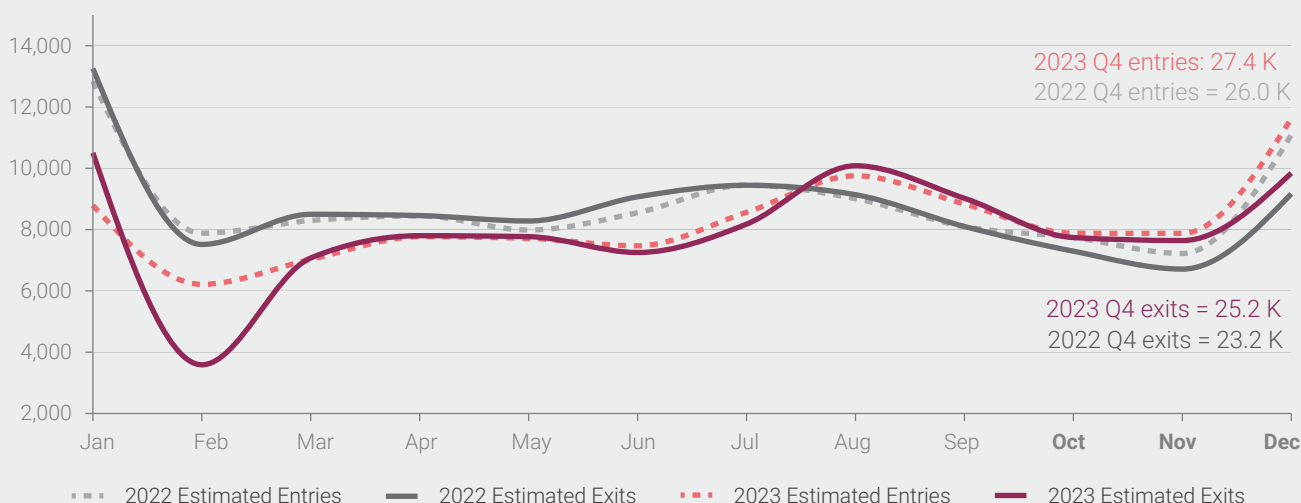
Similarly, 34 Venezuelans were intercepted and detained on [26 December](#) while attempting to enter **Curacao** irregularly by boat. In **Trinidad and Tobago**, the authorities also intercepted boats arriving irregularly carrying Venezuelan refugees and migrants, including children (on [27 November](#)). Separately, between [11-12 December](#) 13 Venezuelans were fined for entering the country irregularly.

In the fourth quarter, a [rise in reports of xenophobia](#) towards Venezuelans and Spanish-speaking persons was noted by R4V partners in **Guyana**, and there were reports of greater restrictions placed on Venezuelan arrivals to Guyana. This is attributed to political tensions between the governments of Guyana and Venezuela over a territorial dispute and relating to the [national referendum in Venezuela](#) concerning the Essequibo region. While there were no new official movement restrictions put into place, reports indicate that some [100 Venezuelans were detained](#) upon arrival in Region 2 in Guyana on 29 October, and were later returned to the border by the Guyanese Defense Force. Another group of some [30 Venezuelans were escorted back](#) to the Venezuelan border by the Coast Guard after attempting to enter Region 1 in Guyana irregularly at the end of November.

Additionally, according to R4V partners, some 67 Venezuelans were intercepted while attempting to enter Wakenaam Island in Region 3 in October, out of whom 48 were detained overnight and subsequently transferred to a local settlement. According to R4V partner reports, the government’s issuance of stay permits for these arriving Venezuelans was made conditional upon the identification of relatives or friends in Guyana who would assume responsibility for them, marking a shift from previous practices when 3-month stay permits were granted without restrictions.

In terms of regular movements to and from the **Dominican Republic**, a slight increase in regular entries and exits of refugees and migrants from Venezuela was noted at the end of the year. The increase in December (9,842 exits) was considered seasonally motivated, with many Venezuelans temporarily returning to their country of origin. Similar to trends in previous years, the number of regular entries of Venezuelans to the Dominican Republic also increased at the end of the year, with December marking the highest monthly arrivals figure in 2023 (11,622).

### REGULAR ENTRIES AND EXITS OF VENEZUELAN TO AND FROM THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC BY AIR



Source:

[Central Bank of the Dominican Republic](#)

## ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report refers to the quarterly consolidation of information on the main movement trends of refugees and migrants throughout the 17 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean that are part of the Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V). Its primary objective is to provide analysis and key findings on such trends, including the impact of policies influencing the movement of refugees and migrants across the region.

The analysis presented in this report is based on two main types of data: first, official government figures -primarily on regular movements- and second, estimates of irregular movements, with varying methodologies and sources according to the country (see sources section at the beginning). The analysis herein is based on the interpretation and consolidation of both types of data collected by the national R4V teams, complemented by a regional analysis. The routes represented on the included maps are prepared based on the evidence provided by the National Platforms.

## SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

Since this report is based on various sources of information, methodologies and geographical coverage, its main objective -as mentioned above- is to offer a regional understanding of the dynamics and magnitudes of movements of refugees and migrants. Therefore, the figures included in the report should not be interpreted as exact comparable figures between the 17 R4V countries.

### REGIONAL PLATFORM COORDINATORS

**Philippe Sacher**      sacher@unhcr.org  
**Zachary Thomas**      zthomas@iom.int

See response:



**RMRP.R4V.INFO**