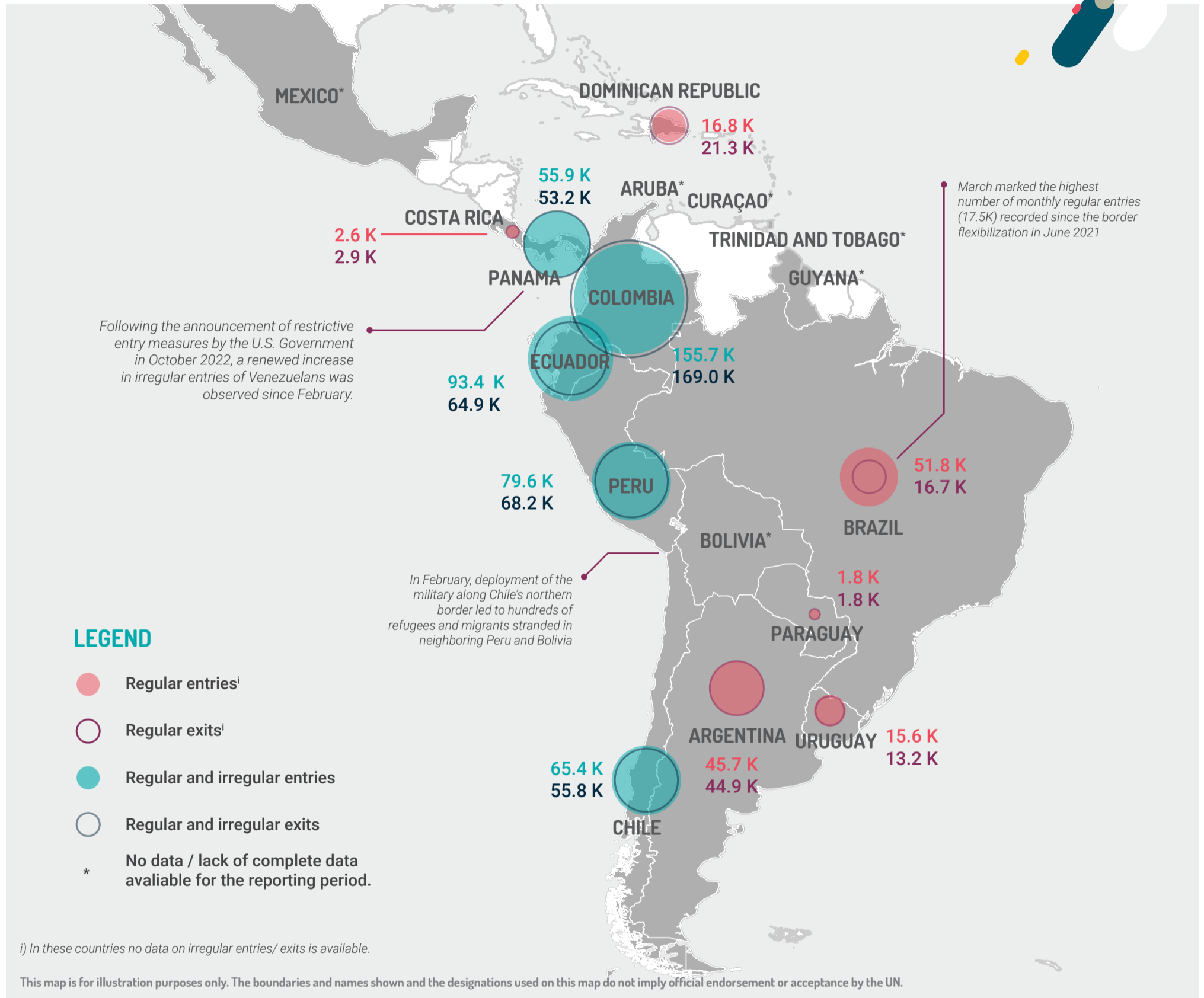


ENTRIES AND EXITS CONSOLIDATED FROM JANUARY - MARCH 2023



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 entries of Venezuelans via the Darien land border with Colombia, and regular entries and exits of Venezuelans: [Panama National Migration Service](#). Source for irregular exits: R4V estimation based on [DTM's](#) exit estimates for all nationalities in Los Planes de Gualaca, Chiriqui and the proportion of Venezuelans crossing via the Darien.
- 4) Colombia:** Regular and irregular entries and exits of Venezuelans by air, land, and sea borders. For data on regular entries, see: [Migración Colombia](#)

- 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](#)
- 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 and Tumbes](#) and GTRM R4V Platform in Peru.

- 7) Chile:** Regular entries and exits in all borders; estimated irregular entries from Peru and Bolivia, and estimated irregular exits to Peru. 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](#).
- 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) Argentina:** Regular entries and exits. Source: National Migration Directorate of Argentina.
- 11) Uruguay:** Regular entries and exits. Source: National Migration Directorate of Uruguay.

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

Quarter figures included throughout this document correspond to cumulative entry and exit movements during the first three months of the year and do not represent a count of unique individuals.



MOVEMENTS REPORT

JANUARY - MARCH 2023

REGIONAL TRENDS AND KEY FINDINGS

In the lead-up to the end of the Title 42 public health order (which ended on 11 May 2023), on 5 January the United States Government announced new [border enforcement measures](#), coupled with the expansion of a parole programme to allow 30,000 entries per month for nationals of Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela, and the use of an app (called CBP One) for refugees and migrants arriving along the southern U.S. border to schedule an appointment to present themselves at a legal point of entry, including to request an exemption from Title 42 and/or seek asylum. Nationals from these countries who attempted to cross the southwest border to the U.S. irregularly were expelled to Mexico, including Venezuelans seeking asylum. During the first quarter of 2023, approximately 8,000 persons were expelled, out of whom 35% were Venezuelans.

Despite the alternative legal pathways to enter the U.S. established by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in tandem with the new border enforcement measures, the first quarter of 2023 saw a renewed

increase in irregular northward movements of Venezuelans through Central America, the majority with an intention to reach the United States of America (see section on Central America and Mexico). Following a temporary decrease in late 2022 of irregular entries of Venezuelans from Colombia to Panama, associated with new [migration measures for Venezuelans](#) announced in October by the U.S. Government, sharp increases in Venezuelan entries via the Darien were [reported](#) in February (7,100) and March (20,800).

The Government of Chile adopted a [new Critical Infrastructure Law to address crime and insecurity in the north of the country](#). *The law* entered into force in February and tasked the military with carrying out identity checks on individuals entering the country irregularly. This impacted the entry of refugees and migrants to the country, leading to hundreds being unable to pursue their route to Chile and stranded in neighboring Peru and Bolivia (see textbox at the end of the report for situational update as of 15 May).

NORTH-BOUND MOVEMENTS THROUGH CENTRAL AMERICA AND MEXICO

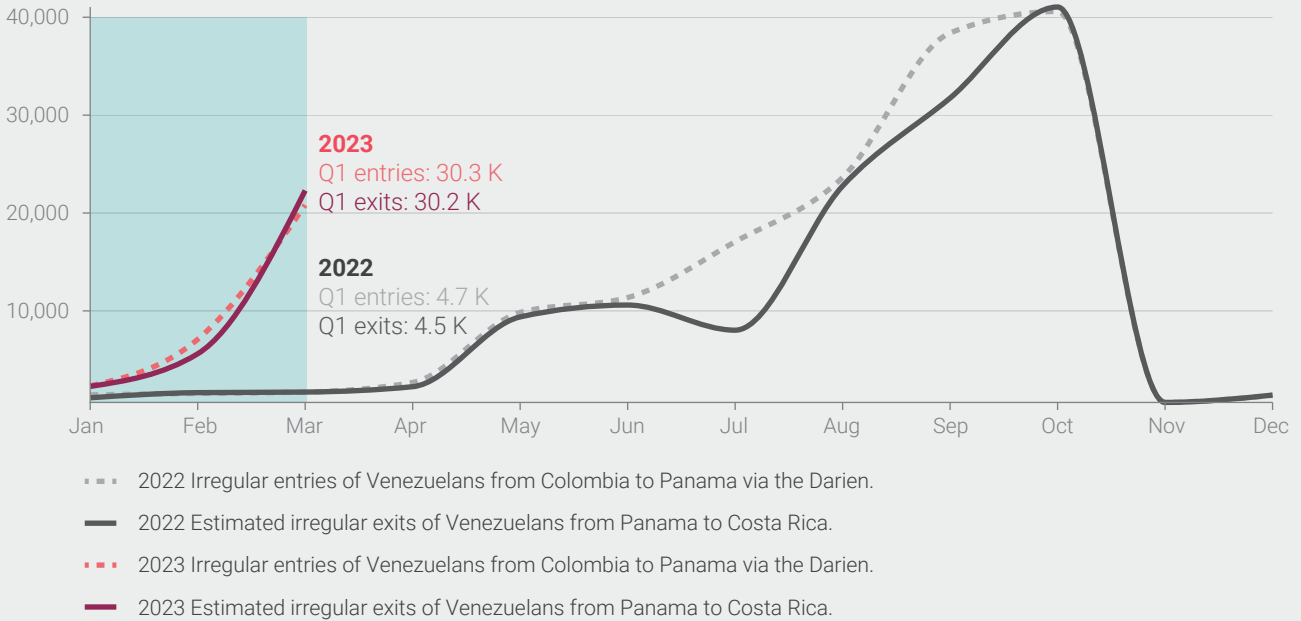
CENTRAL AMERICA AND MEXICO SUB-REGION

Following the [U.S. announcement of new border enforcement measures and admissions procedures on 5 January 2023](#), the previously implemented Humanitarian Parole Program for Venezuelans ([as introduced on 12 October 2022](#)) was expanded to allow for the legal admission of up to 30,000 Cuban, Haitian, Nicaraguan and Venezuelan refugees and migrants per month. In order to enter the U.S. regularly, qualified nationals from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela must schedule appointments at points of entry in advance via the [CBP One](#) app. According to a [statement](#) released by

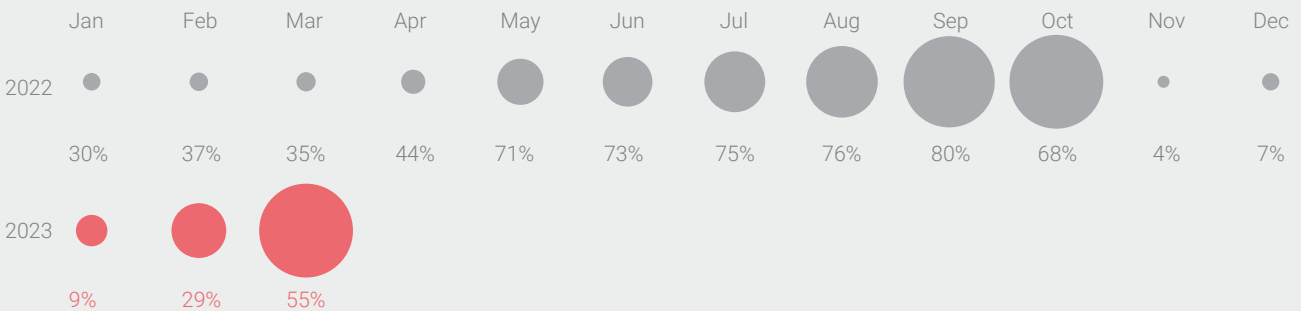
the National Migration Institute (INM) in Mexico in March, all non-Mexican nationals who have a confirmed appointment at a U.S. point of entry within the CBP One app are allowed to enter Mexico and transit freely.

Meanwhile, despite the sharp decrease in irregular entries to **Panama** from Colombia in late 2022, following the new U.S. migration process for Venezuelans [announced on 12 October](#), a renewed increase in entries of Venezuelan refugees and migrants to Panama has been observed since the beginning of 2023, reaching a new peak in March (20,800 entries). According to

ESTIMATED IRREGULAR ENTRIES AND EXITS OF VENEZUELAN TO AND FROM PANAMA



Monthly proportion of Venezuelan nationals among irregular entries to Panama



Notes:

In addition to the irregular figures showcased in the graph, [SNM](#) reports a cumulative figure of 25.6 K regular entries and 22.9 K regular exits of Venezuelans in the first quarter of 2023. It is estimated that approximately 55.5% of the Venezuelan flows observed in the most recent quarter correspond to irregular entries and exits.

As shown in the graph, the estimated exits are less than the entries as there is a small percentage of Venezuelans that stay in ETRMs and in the city of David due to financial barriers to continue the journey.

Sources:

For irregular entries of Venezuelans via the Darien land border with Colombia: Panama National Migration Service ([SNM](#))

For irregular exits: R4V estimation based on [DTM](#)'s exit estimates for all nationalities in Los Planes de Gualaca, Chiriqui and the proportion of Venezuelans crossing via the Darien.

statistics from Panama's National Migration Service ([SNM](#)), the majority of irregular entries via the Darien recorded between January and March of 2023 were by Venezuelans (30,300) followed by Haitians (23,600) and Ecuadorians (14,300). **According to an R4V partner's [monitoring survey](#) conducted between January and February, 96% of respondents indicated their intended**

final destination was the U.S. Respondents indicated that their motivations for leaving their countries of origin were associated with economic issues and general levels of insecurity. Similarly, another R4V partner's [monitoring exercise](#) found that more than half (53%) of respondents indicated leaving due to generalized violence or insecurity in their countries and more than a third (37%) reported

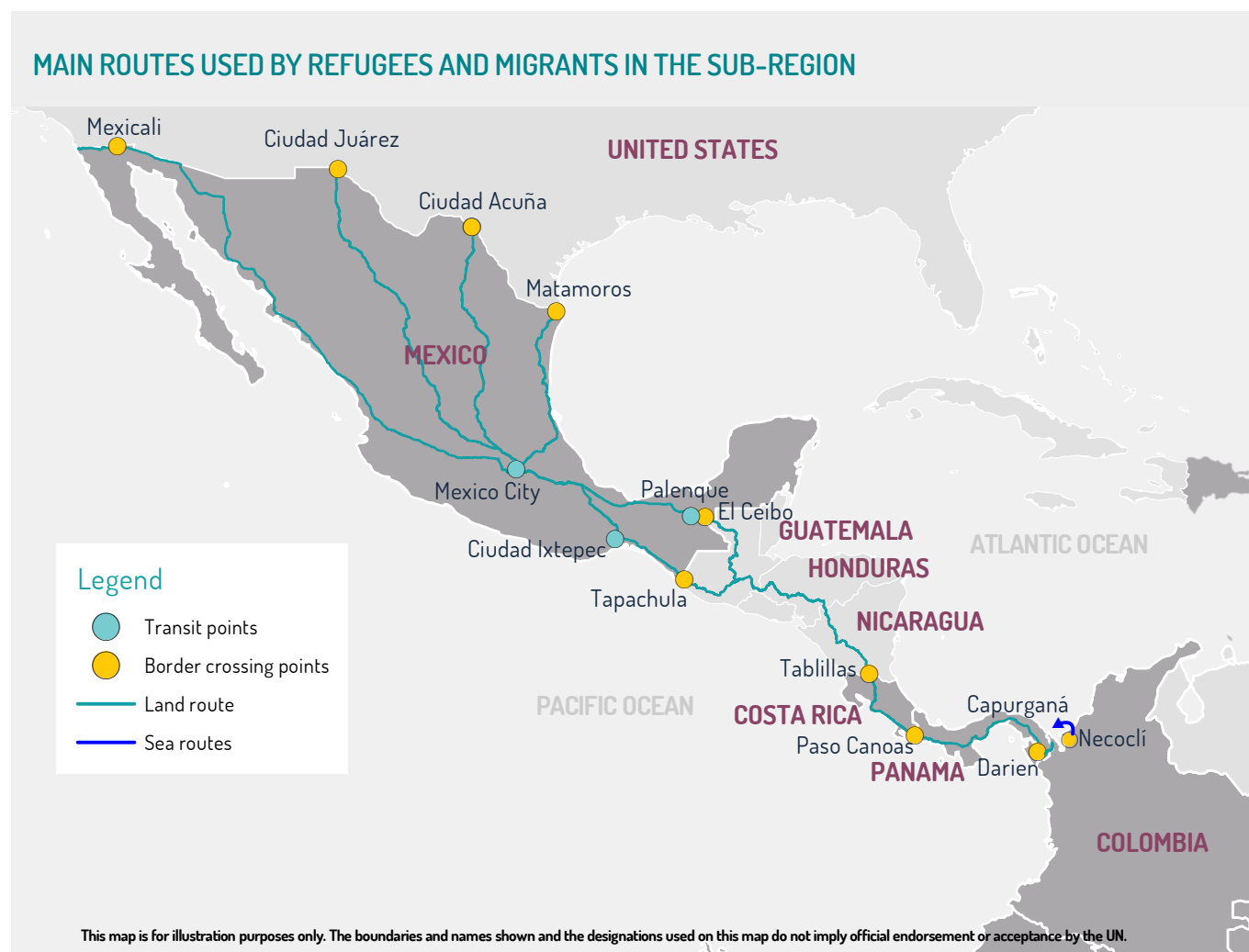
having experienced threats or violence against them and/or their families, in addition to three out of four (79%) who mentioned limited access to employment as a reason for undertaking the route northward through Panama. According to monitoring surveys in Panama in [March](#), 63% of arriving Cubans, Haitians and Venezuelans indicated that they were aware of the new entry requirements to the U.S., while 35% were unfamiliar with the U.S. entry requirements.

In February, the SNM in Panama temporarily suspended their bus transfers provided to refugees and migrants following a [bus accident](#) that caused the death of 40 refugees and migrants in Chiriqui, in the northwest of Panama.

Costa Rica also saw an increase in irregular entries of Venezuelan refugees and migrants by the end of the first quarter of 2023. Based on [data](#) collected at the Temporary Migrant Reception Station (ETRM) in Los Planes in Panama (at the Costa Rican southern border), the estimated irregular entries of Venezuelans to Costa Rica increased significantly from January (2,288) and

February (5,619) to March (22,304). Considering the aforementioned monitoring surveys conducted in Panama and limited opportunities to obtain refugee status or regular status, it is understood that the majority of those entering Costa Rica do so with the intention to transit the country northward. In terms of regular movements, data from the General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners (DGME) suggests that both entries and exits were lower than those recorded last year for the same period, with a slight decreasing trend in regular entries from January to March.

With a view to avoiding security issues, groups of several hundred refugees and migrants were in transit from the south to north of **Mexico** in early 2023. In February, some [1,000 refugees and migrants](#), primarily from Venezuela, Honduras, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti and Guatemala, transited from Tapachula, Chiapas in Mexico towards the border with the U.S. On 11 March, a [post on social media triggered the movement of over 1,000](#) refugees and migrants over the El Paso border bridge between Mexico and the U.S. The post contained misinformation claiming that the U.S. border was temporarily open for individuals



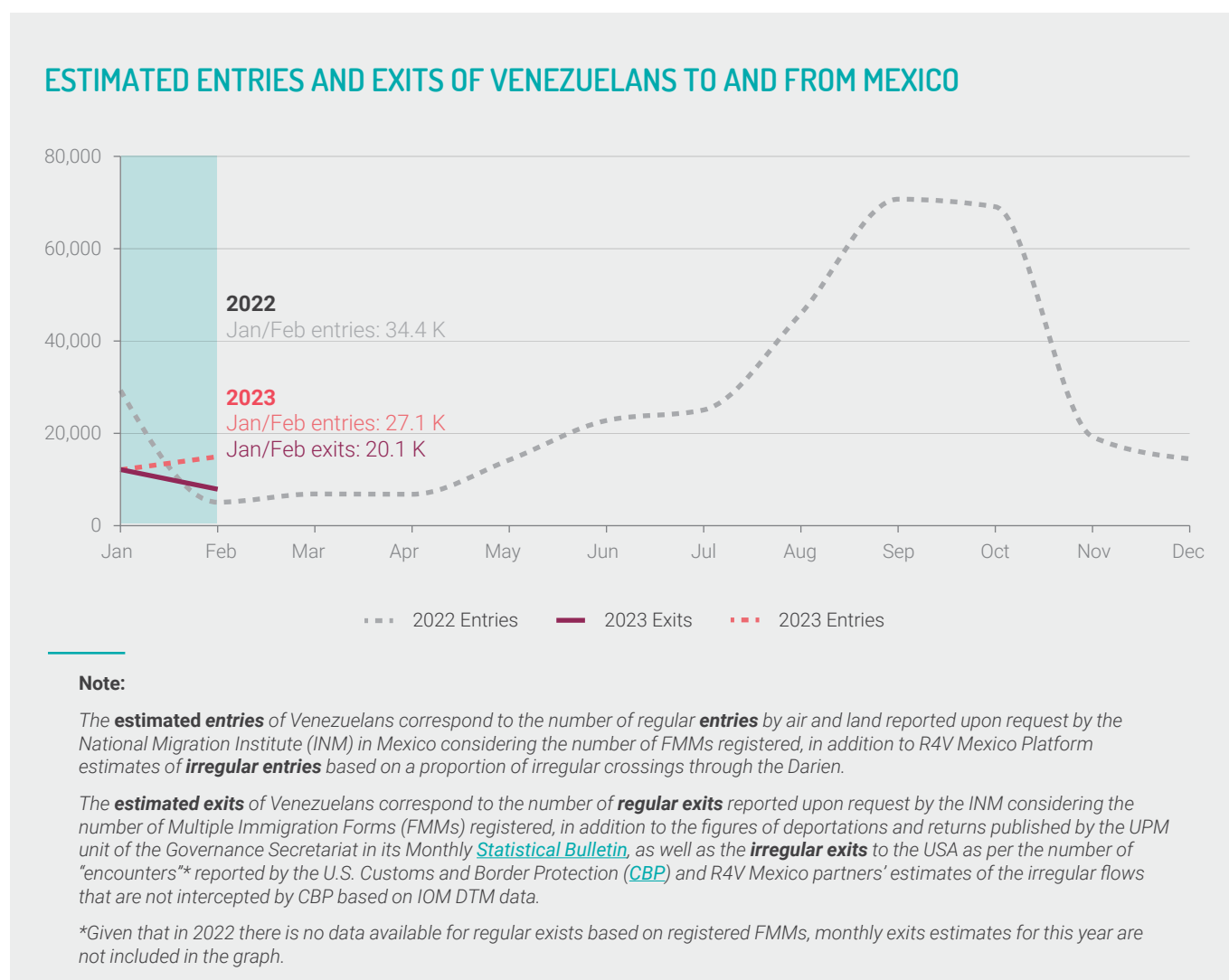
arriving with children without an appointment via CBP One. Meanwhile, exits of Venezuelans from Mexico to the U.S. maintained similar levels as those observed at the end of [Q4 of 2022](#). According to data from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), there were 9,100 encounters¹ with Venezuelans registered in January, 5,600 in February and 8,300 in March. Nevertheless, the relatively low number of encounters of Venezuelans attempting to cross to the U.S. in early 2023 (compared with the peak of 33,800 monthly encounters reported in September 2022) coupled with the growing number of Venezuelans in transit through Central America suggest a build-up of Venezuelan refugees and migrants in countries along the transit route towards the U.S.

Arrivals to Mexico's southern border remain significant, with a large number of new asylum applications lodged by Venezuelans. During the first quarter of 2023, the Mexican asylum authority (COMAR) registered appointments for 52,900 individual asylum-seekers (of various nationalities)

in Tapachula, including almost 22,000 persons in January alone. This represents an increase of 150% in comparison to Q1 in 2022.

Finally, according to [SNM in Panama](#), 14 Venezuelans were deported from the country during the first quarter of the year. During the same period in Costa Rica, 75 Venezuelan nationals were [refused entry](#) to the country, in particular at the Juan Santamaría International Airport and Paso Canoas land border. In Mexico, 181 [deportations](#) of Venezuelans to their country of origin took place during the first three months of the year.

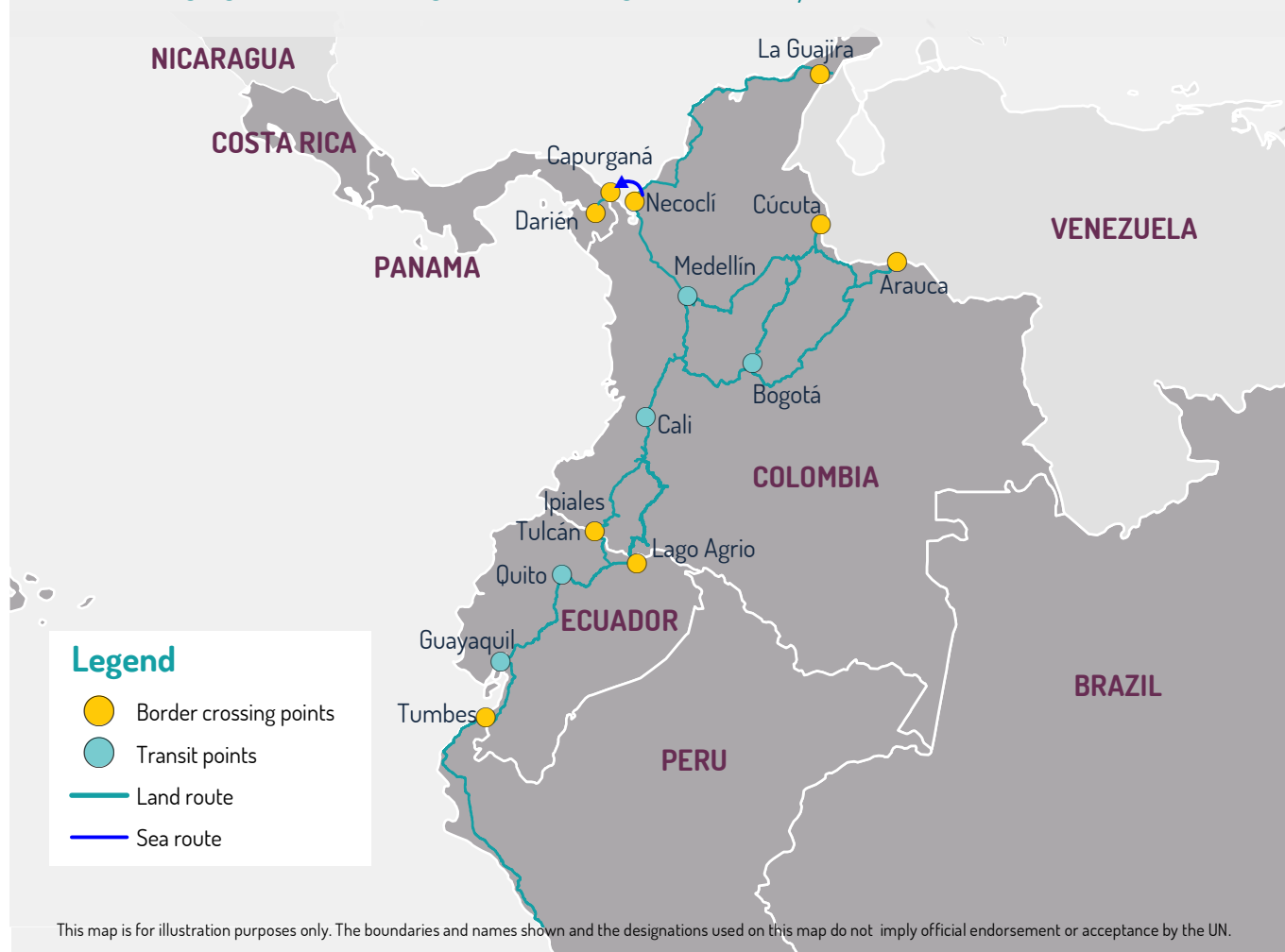
Between January and March, according to the SNM, 179 Venezuelan nationals were [voluntarily returned](#) from Panama to their country of origin. According to the Government of Mexico, there were 169 [voluntary repatriations of Venezuelans in the same time period](#), including 34 children.



[1] 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").

MULTI-DIRECTIONAL MOVEMENTS IN SOUTH AMERICA

MAIN ROUTES USED BY REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS IN COLOMBIA, ECUADOR AND THE NORTH OF PERU



COLOMBIA

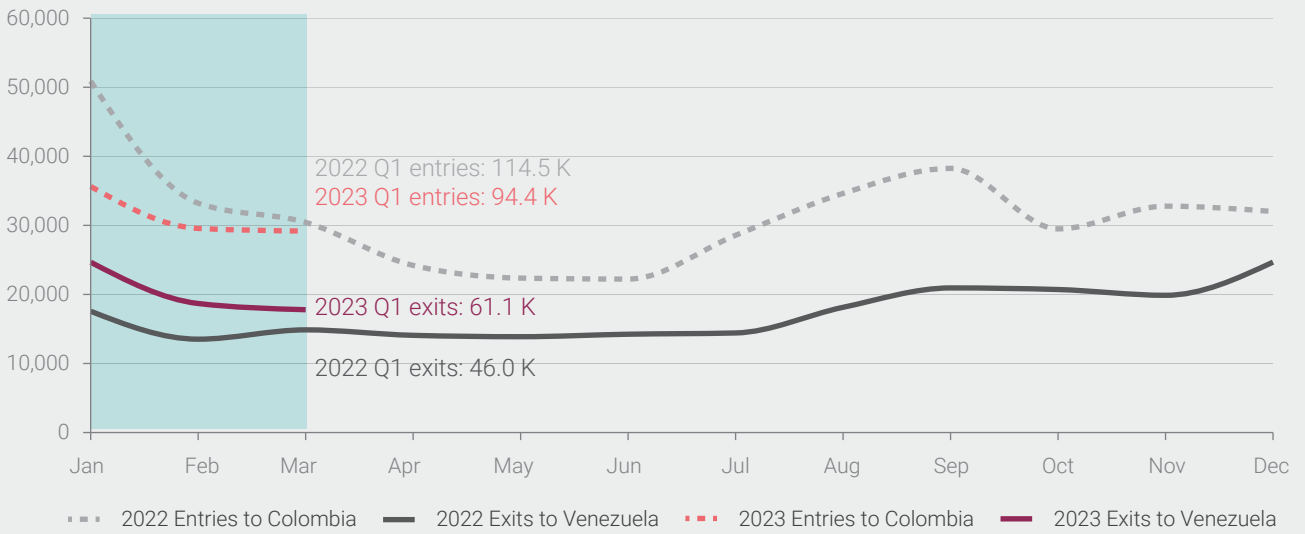
Aligned with seasonal movement trends of previous years, the first quarter of 2023 saw a decrease in entries to Colombia from Ecuador (30% less than in Q4 of 2022). Similarly, estimated exits from Colombia to Ecuador also resumed following a temporary reduction in southward movements over the year-end holidays (Q1 reported almost a 60% increase to Q4 of 2022).

In terms of movements at the Colombia-Venezuela border, a positive migratory balance was observed in the first quarter of 2023, as the total regular and irregular entries (94,400) exceeded exits (61,100). These exits were less than during the last quarter of 2022 (65,300). Nevertheless, in contrast to the same period in 2022, there is a slight increase in

departures from Colombia to Venezuela (46,000 exits to Venezuela in Q1 of 2022). According to local monitoring by partners of the National R4V Platform in Colombia (GIFMM)², around 30-40% of Venezuelans surveyed upon departure indicated that their return movements were temporary in nature, while 60-70% mentioned a lack of integration opportunities in previous host countries as their motivation for considering returning to Venezuela. Pendular movements between Colombia and Venezuela also remained significant, reaching 23,800 in Q1 of 2023, while being 18% less than the total observed during the same period in 2022 (29,000 in Q1 of 2022).

[2] As survey results varied during the Q1, percentages are presented within ranges. Monitoring particularly took place at the La Donjuana assistance point in Norte de Santander.

ESTIMATED ENTRIES AND EXITS OF VENEZUELAN ALONG THE COLOMBIA-VENEZUELA BORDER



Note:

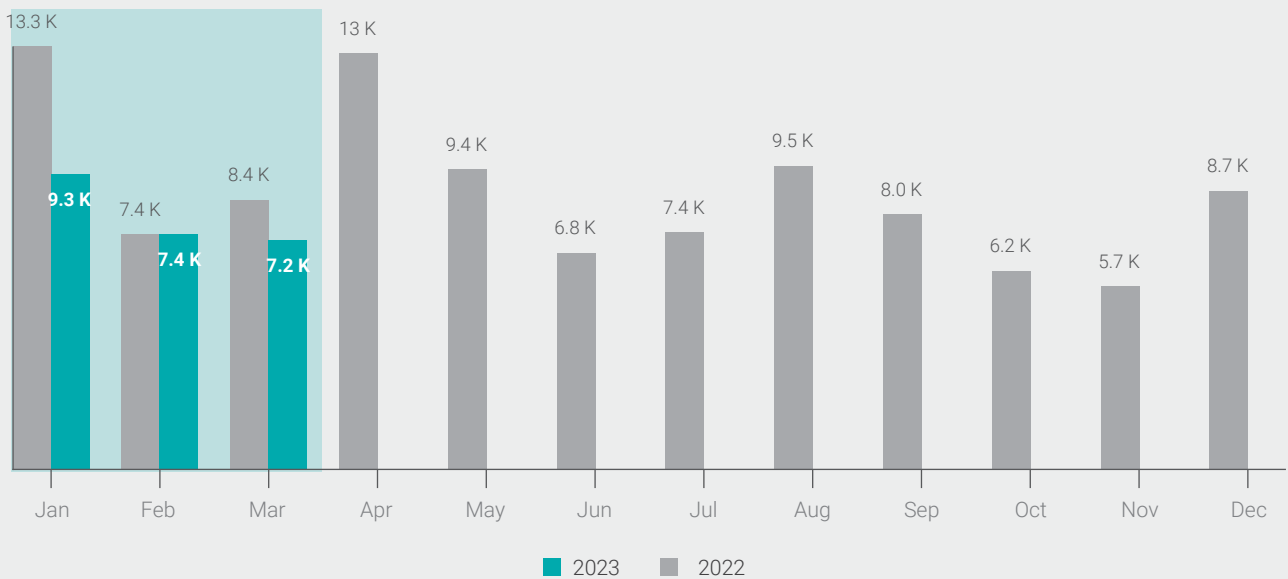
Estimated entries and exits data does not include pendular movements.

Source:

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

ESTIMATED PENDULAR MOVEMENTS ALONG THE COLOMBIA-VENEZUELA BORDER



Source:

GIFMM estimations based on Migración Colombia data and the DTM Wi-Fi project - IOM.

ECUADOR

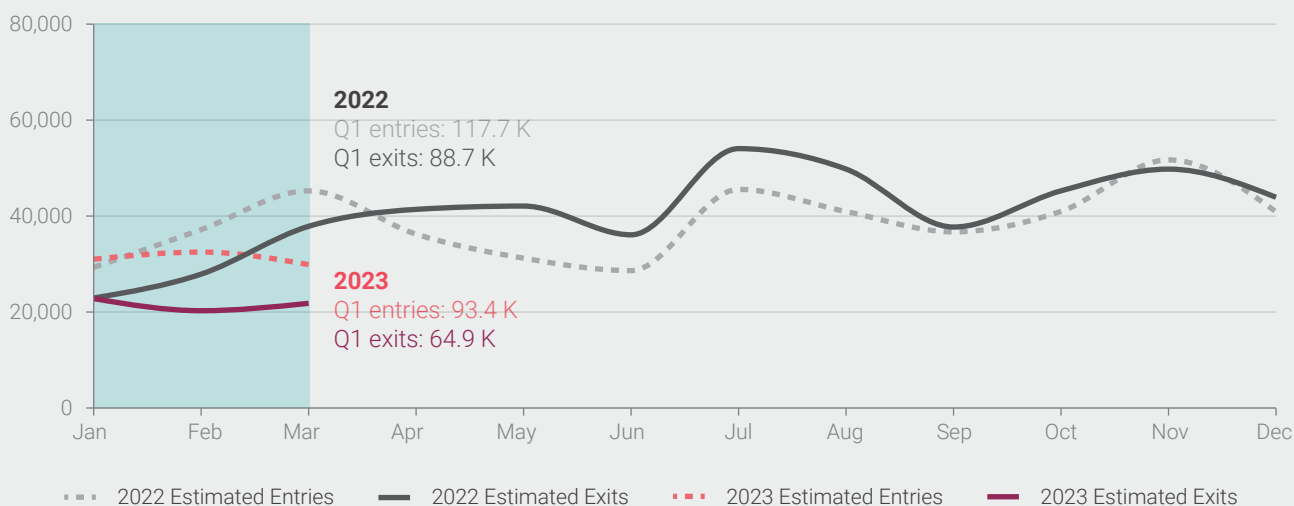
In Ecuador, it is estimated that approximately 90.8% of Venezuelan movements observed during the first quarter of the year correspond to irregular entries and exits, slightly below the annual average of 2022 (94.2%). According to data on irregular movements from the Border Monitoring and Profiling System of the National R4V Platform in Ecuador (GTRM), Ecuador saw a higher number of estimated irregular entries (86,771) in relation to exits (56,936). While these movement trends are consistent with previous years' trends linked to the year-end holidays, a lower number of entries was also reported in March (in contrast to 2022, when entries resumed at higher levels towards the end of the first quarter). Similarly, regular and irregular exits from Ecuador were also significantly lower than throughout the previous year (see graph).

In contrast to the previous quarter, an overall decrease was noted in irregular entries at the northern border of Ecuador (daily average decreased from 1.1K to 628 in Q1). A temporary decrease was nevertheless observed

at the beginning of the quarter, likely impacted by a landslide between Pasto and Popayán in Colombia, which restricted movement of refugees and migrants between Colombia and Ecuador between January and February. While irregular entries through the southern border with Peru were overall higher than the past quarter (daily average increased from 337 people in Q4 to 428 in Q1), movements were partly impacted by cyclone Yaku and heavy rains in March, which led to a slight decrease in irregular entries at the end of the reporting period.

In terms of regular movements, while the Ecuadorian Ministry of the Interior reported more exits (8K) than entries (6.6K) between January and March, exits reduced significantly in comparison to Q4 of 2022 (12.1K). As reported in [Q4](#), this is likely linked to seasonal and year-end holiday movements. According to GTRM, the exceeding number of regular exits in relation to regular entries is also expected to be associated with the overall trends in northward movements towards the U.S. and some return movements to Venezuela.

ESTIMATED ENTRIES AND EXITS OF VENEZUELANANS TO AND FROM ECUADOR



Source:

Regular entries and exits: [Ministry of Government](#)

Irregular entries and exits: [GTRM Border Monitoring and Population Profiling System](#)

PERU

Peru saw an overall decrease in movements during the first quarter of the year. Both entries and exits in the southern regions of the country were impacted by the continued roadblocks and protests linked to the socio-

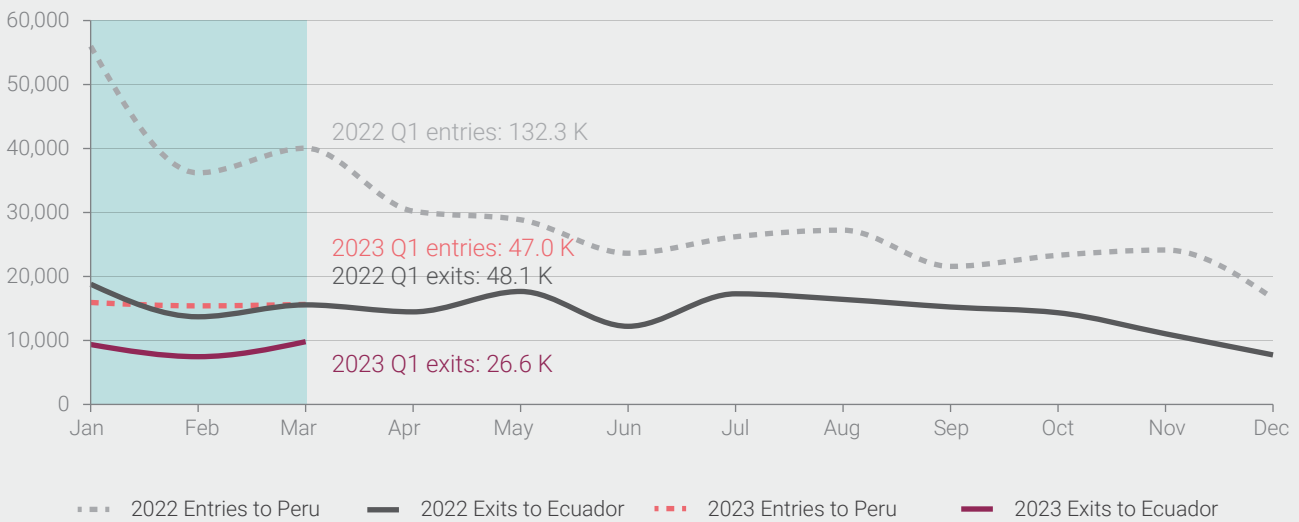
political context in the country, including the declaration of a state of emergency on 15 January. In the region of Puno, at the border with Bolivia, bus terminals and the international bridge were closed due to social unrest.³

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



[3] Due to the situation, flow monitoring exercises by R4V partners in Puno were suspended during Q1 of 2023.

ESTIMATED IRREGULAR ENTRIES AND EXITS OF VENEZUELAN ALONG THE PERU-ECUADOR BORDER



Source:

IOM, DTM Flow Monitoring Registry in [Tumbes](#)

As a result, refugees and migrants had to resort to unsafe routes and means of transportation to continue their transit. R4V partners also observed limited access to essential services, such as food, shelter and health services, among stranded refugees and migrants. In this context, [deaths](#) of refugees and migrants related to respiratory issues and malnutrition were reported.

Owing to the above developments, as also reported in [Q4](#) of 2022, refugees and migrants remained [stranded at closed bus terminals](#) in Tacna, along the border with Chile, during the first months of 2023. The situation turned increasingly complicated following the implementation of the [new law](#) and deployment of the military along Chile's borders (see Chile section for more information), with [hundreds of people stranded](#) in vulnerable situations in the streets of Tacna and by the Santa Rosa border crossing point. As a result, the number of irregular entries into Peru (from Chile) slightly exceeded irregular exits, as estimated by the Single Inter-Agency Counting and Characterization exercise (CCUI) of the National R4V Platform in Peru (GTRM) in March, marking a change in trends from previous months.

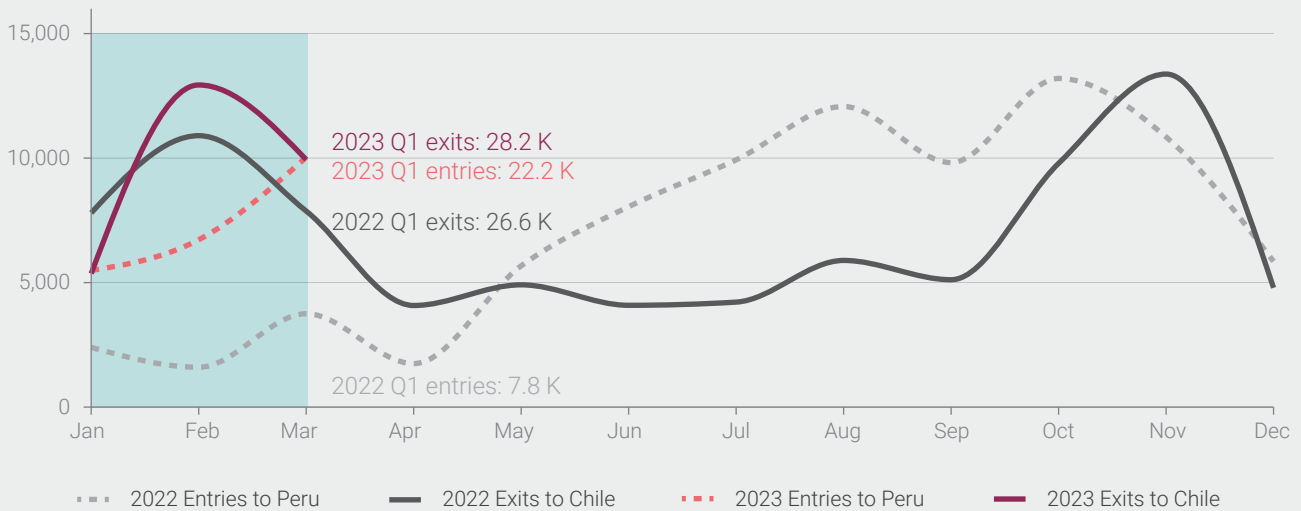
In addition, climate-related disasters in the northern regions also impacted human mobility. In March, a [cyclone](#) caused heavy rains and flooding in the northern

coastal areas, consequently restricting movements from Lima to Ecuador.

According to GTRM's CCUI surveys, the number of entries of refugees and migrants via Tumbes at the northern border continued to decrease during the first quarter of the year, confirming the downward trend in southward movements noted in 2022. The surveyed population indicated that their previous countries of residence were Venezuela (45-54%), Colombia (28-32%) and Ecuador (15-21%). The main intended destinations for refugees and migrants entering the country were Peru and Chile. Meanwhile, among Venezuelans surveyed upon departure, the majority indicated that an inability to identify decent employment and family reunification were their main reasons for leaving Peru. In terms of the main countries of intended destination, most Venezuelans indicated that they were intending to return to Venezuela (45-58%) or continue towards the U.S. (9-11%).

As part of the "Vuelta a la Patria" plan, two repatriation flights from Peru were organized by the Venezuelan Embassy during the first quarter of 2023. In total, almost 500 Venezuelans returned to their home country ([251](#) on 13 January and [233](#) on 23 February).

ESTIMATED IRREGULAR ENTRIES AND EXITS OF VENEZUELAN ALONG THE PERU-CHILE BORDER



Source:

IOM, DTM Flow Monitoring Registry in [Tacna](#)

CHILE

Movement dynamics of refugees and migrants from Venezuela in Chile were affected by several internal and external factors during the first quarter of the year. In February, an amendment to the [Critical Infrastructure Law](#) allowed the military to be [deployed](#) to the northern border regions of Chile to carry out identity checks and searches of individuals entering the country through irregular crossings. According to the Government of Chile, the new measures were intended to address crime, insecurity and international criminal organizations allegedly associated with the arrival of refugees and migrants. A week after its implementation, it was reported that [over 4,000 identity checks](#) had been carried out at the borders with Peru and Bolivia (3,023 in Tarapacá and 1,497 in Arica). As a consequence of these new measures and in order to avoid these encounters, refugees and migrants increasingly explored irregular alternatives and traversed more remote routes through challenging terrain and climatic conditions, including the highland areas with Bolivia and the desert with Peru.

Throughout January, entry figures appeared to be affected by the social unrest in Peru, as some [roadblocks](#)

were still in place in southern Peru at the beginning of the year, leading to low numbers of entries reported from Peru to Chile in January (5,363). A sharp increase in estimated entries was subsequently observed in February (12,936) before entries dropped again, as a result of the implementation of the new measures in the northern border regions of Chile.

According to an R4V partner's border monitoring⁴, a sharp increase in irregular exits was reported in March at the border with Peru. Similarly to the contributing factors mentioned in [Q4](#) of 2022, based on R4V partners' observations, this increase in exit movements is likely linked to lack of integration opportunities, such as formal employment, housing and access to asylum and regularization mechanisms for refugees and migrants to secure legal status in the country, as well as rising levels of xenophobia and discrimination. The Critical Infrastructure Law is also believed to have influenced the exit figures, as R4V partners observed more refugees and migrants intending to leave the country after the new law came into force.

[4] IOM, DTM Flow Monitoring Registry in Tacna

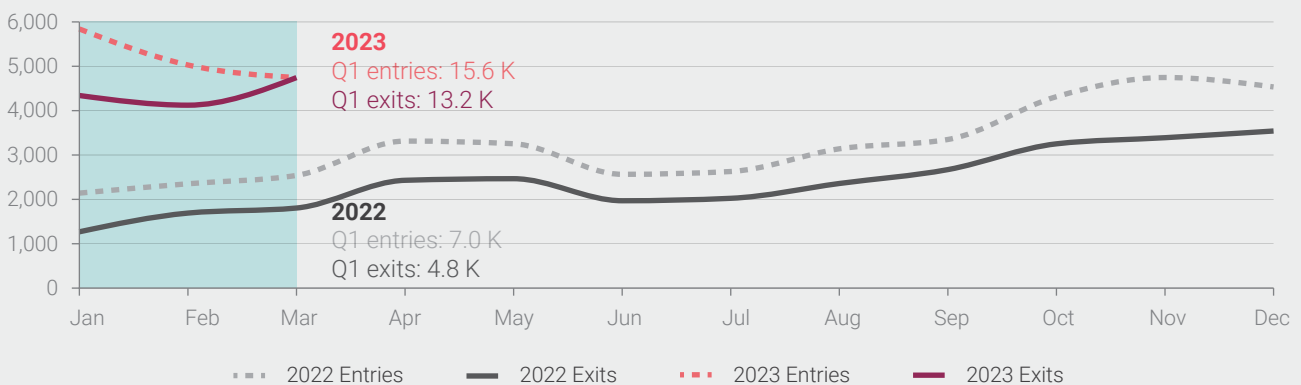
SOUTHERN CONE SUB-REGION

As a result of the social unrest and political instability in Peru, roadblocks set up by demonstrators in Q4 of 2022 continued to [impact movements to neighboring countries](#) during the first quarter of 2023. At the border between Peru and **Bolivia**, R4V partners observed a decrease in the number of refugees and migrants from Venezuela entering Bolivia, with many left [stranded](#) due to blockades in Desaguadero. Entry and exit movements in Bolivia were also affected by Chile’s deployment of the military to its borders in February, contributing to an increase in irregular movements along the Chile-Bolivia border by mid-March. According to an R4V partner’s border monitoring and based on single day counts between January and March⁵, an average of 95 daily irregular exits were observed

during the reporting period in Pisiga, approximately one kilometer from the border with Colchane, Chile.

Similar to trends noted in previous reports, the National Directorate for Migration (DNM) in **Uruguay** reported a positive monthly net entry of Venezuelans in the first quarter of 2023, with a total of 15,616 regular entries, in comparison to 13,209 exits. Observations by R4V partners indicate that the economic stability and increase in employment opportunities in Uruguay contribute to a positive balance of arrivals to the country. Meanwhile, in **Paraguay** there was a slight decrease in regular entries (1,711) compared to exits (1,839) for the first quarter of the year, according to the National Directorate for Migration (DNM) in Paraguay.

REGULAR ENTRIES AND EXITS OF VENEZUELANS TO AND FROM URUGUAY



Source:

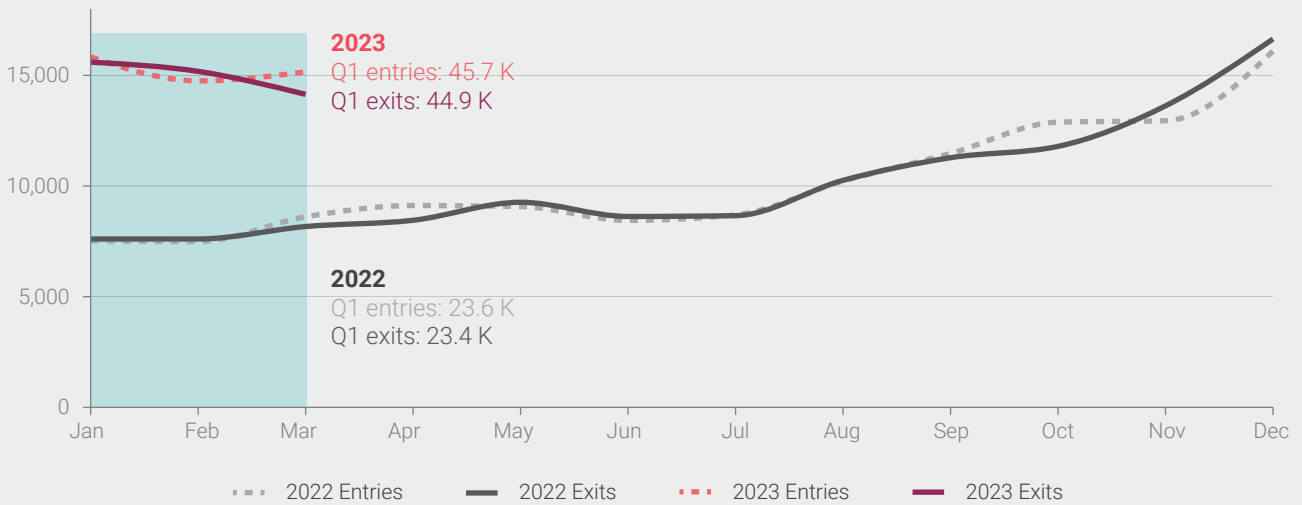
National Migration Directorate of Uruguay

In **Argentina**, according to the National Migration Directorate, a total of 45,700 regular entries and 44,900 regular exits were registered during the first quarter of the year. While this represents a significant increase compared to regular movements in Q1 in 2022, which reported only 23,600 entries and 23,400 exits between January and March 2022, the number of regular entries and exits are similar to the previous quarter (for Q4 of 2022). According to observations of R4V partners, the increase in entries and exits in comparison to the Q1 of 2022 is partly associated with regularization criteria and requirements of regular entry to the country to be

eligible to apply for regular residency. As a result, it has been observed that Venezuelans who entered the country through irregular routes during the prolonged closure of borders during the pandemic, have traveled to neighboring countries for short visits (in many cases, only for a day or a few hours) in order to [obtain a regular entry stamp](#) upon their return in Argentina. Another factor which may have influenced the rise in regular movements identified by R4V partners relates to the increase in successive movements between Argentina, Chile and Uruguay, especially due to the economic [instability](#) in Argentina and migratory policies in Chile and Uruguay.

[5] Source: IOM, DTM Rounds 14 to 21, January to March 2023

REGULAR ENTRIES AND EXITS OF VENEZUELANAS TO AND FROM ARGENTINA

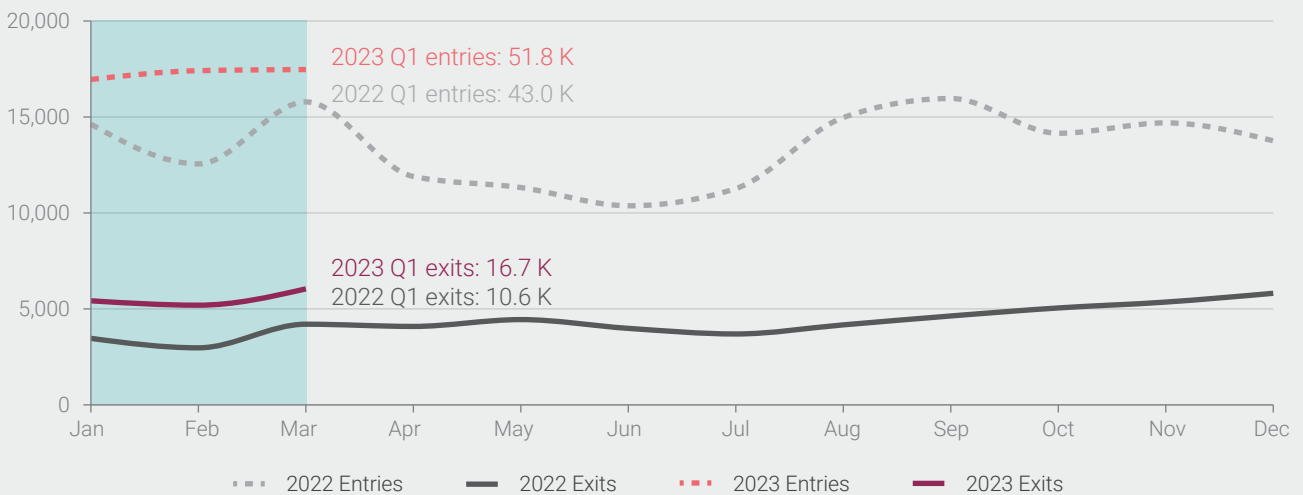


Source:

National Migration Directorate of Argentina

BRAZIL

REGULAR ENTRIES AND EXITS OF VENEZUELANAS TO AND FROM BRAZIL



Source:

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

The first quarter of the year saw a continued increase in entries of Venezuelan refugees and migrants to Brazil (51,800), with March marking the highest number of monthly regular entries (17,500) recorded since the border flexibilization in June 2021, reaching pre-pandemic levels. The continued influx of refugees and migrants has resulted in greater pressure on social services and infrastructure in the northern border areas, including in towns such as Pacaraima.

Similar to [Q4](#) of 2022, R4V partners observed an ongoing increase in vulnerable profiles, particularly those with healthcare needs, among Venezuelans entering Brazil - 178 of them were relocated within Brazil, from Pacaraima

to Boa Vista, between January and March 2023, in comparison to 101 medical transfers reported in Q4, and 37 in Q3 of 2022.

The total number of regular exits reported between January and March (16,700) were also higher than the same period in 2022 (10,600), the overall ratio of entries and exits remained at 3 to 1.

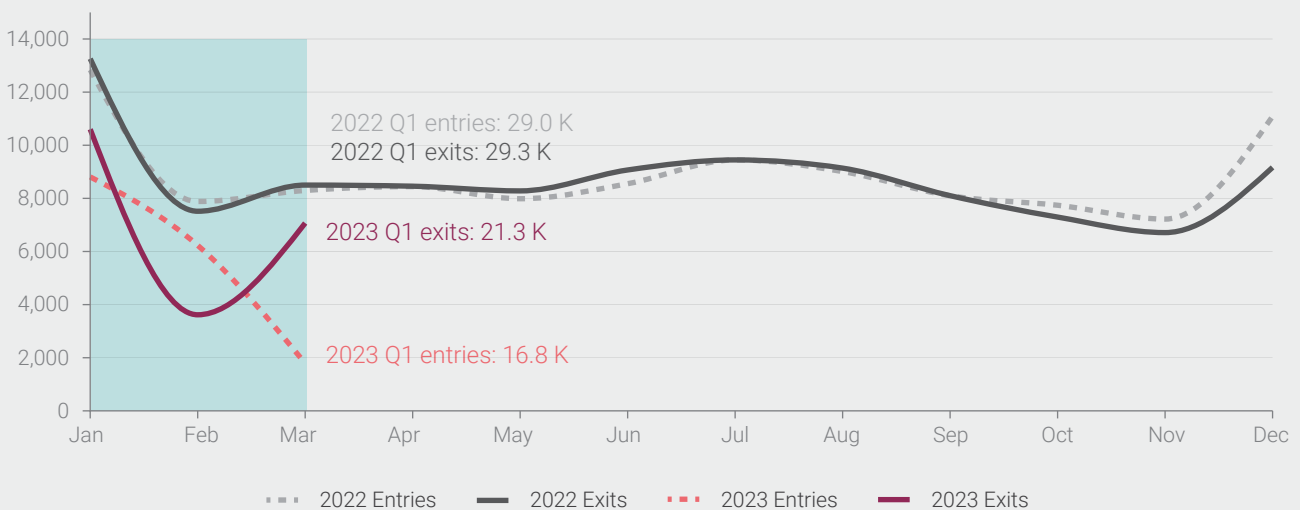
A border monitoring exercise jointly conducted by R4V partners in Pacaraima in March showed that 87% of interviewees exiting the country intended to go temporarily to Venezuela and come back to Brazil.

CARIBBEAN SUB-REGION

The **Dominican Republic** saw a decrease in regular entries of Venezuelans at the beginning of the year, reaching its lowest registered entries in March (1,800). In contrast, while regular exits temporarily decreased in February, the number of exits by air grew again at the end of the first quarter, reaching levels similar to those registered the same time last year.

On 20 March, a boat with 5 Venezuelans was [intercepted by the Coast Guard](#) in **Aruba**. The captain of the boat was detained for human smuggling and the Venezuelans were detained by the Coast Guard pending deportation to Venezuela. In the **Dominican Republic**, a transnational [organized crime network reportedly dedicated to the smuggling of migrants](#) to the U.S. was dismantled in March, also leading to the arrest of seven persons.

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



Source:

[Central Bank of the Dominican Republic](#)

Following a visit of a delegation from Venezuela in February, **Curacao** announced plans to [reopen its maritime and air borders](#), which had been closed since 2019, in April to reestablish trade and economic opportunities between the two countries. The expected impact on movement of refugees and migrants from Venezuela remains unclear.

In connection with an R4V partner's service provision to 125 newly arrived refugees and migrants from Venezuela in **Guyana**, information related to reasons why they have moved to Guyana was assessed; lack of resources, loss of livelihoods, political instability and family reunification were mentioned. Individuals surveyed primarily moved from the Delta Amacuro State in Venezuela to the Mabaruma sub-district in Guyana.



SPECIAL UPDATE ON THE CHILE-PERU-BOLIVIA BORDER

**While the remainder of this report covers information from 1 January – 31 March 2023, this section includes additional information on the situation along the Chile-Peru-Bolivia border up to and including early May 2023.*

Pursuant to a [3 February 2023 law](#) passed by the Congress in Chile, national borders are now considered part of the country's critical infrastructure, thereby extending the authority of the national military to conduct identity checks of individuals entering the country irregularly along its northern borders with Bolivia and Peru. The Government of Chile subsequently deployed the military along its northern border after the publication of decrees No. 1 (20 February) and No. 78 (24 February) for an initial period of 90 days (extendable for an additional 90 days, subject to approval by Congress). Where the military encounters irregular entries or exits of refugees and migrants, the individuals may be transferred to the Investigative Police for further processing, including registering such individuals' irregular entry (*denuncias por ingreso clandestino/irregular*) in coordination with the National Migration Service, and conducting forced returns within 48 hours of irregular entry (*reconducciones*). Children encountered in the context of the above measures should not be detained, while separated and unaccompanied children should be placed at the disposition of the competent family court, for subsequent contact with consular authorities of their country of origin (in the case of migrants) or procedures to determine refugee status (for asylum-seekers).⁶

[R4V partners estimate](#) that since 26 February approximately 4,750 refugees and migrants (the majority Venezuelans) have tried to cross the border between Peru and Chile. In many cases, refugees and migrants have waited several days (an average of 7 days among those [surveyed](#) by R4V partners) before being able to continue their journeys as a result of these new enforcement measures. As of early May, [some 400 refugees and migrants had been stranded](#) in Tacna, Peru, with some returning to Tacna after being denied entry to Chile and/or crossing through Bolivia en route to/from Chile. R4V partners in Bolivia observed that refugees and migrants are increasingly reliant on (and vulnerable to) smugglers

in order to make the journey from Pisiga to Chile, and identified incidents of gender-based violence as well as theft and loss of belongings and identity documents of refugees and migrants along these routes. Particularly given the climatic conditions and scarcity of adequate shelters in the region, refugees and migrants stranded along these borders have been sleeping in the streets unhoused (at times in frigid temperatures) with limited access to food, water, WASH facilities and health services to address their immediate needs, and with serious protection concerns.

In response, the Government of Peru [declared a state of emergency](#) on 26 April, applicable to its border areas with Chile, Ecuador and Brazil, and began denying entry to refugees and migrants attempting to cross into Tacna from Chile without proper documentation (some of whom were attempting to re-enter Peru after being detained or denied entry to Chile at Arica, while others were newly departing Chile). This has resulted in hundreds of refugees and migrants, including Venezuelans, Haitians and other nationalities, stranded in the border regions between Peru and Chile.

On 7 May, the Government of Venezuela organized a Vuelta a la Patria flight from Arica in Chile, which [returned with 115 Venezuelans](#), whose departure had been arranged beforehand through consular contact on both sides of the Peru/Chile border.

While R4V partners and other local actors have [provided support](#) to meet the urgent needs of refugees and migrants along these borders – including in the form of emergency kits, food and water distribution, identification of the most vulnerable individuals and groups including families with children and pregnant and lactating women to receive shelter support and access to protection procedures – the humanitarian needs continue to outstrip available services and assistance.

On 2 May, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights [expressed concern](#) regarding the situation of refugees and migrants along the border and urged governments involved to ensure their ability to access protection and humanitarian assistance.

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[See response:](#)



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[6] See hereto: Key messages issued by the National R4V Platform in Peru (GTRM) on the situation along the Peru-Chile border, https://www.r4v.info/es/document/R4V_Mensajes_riesgos_en_frontera_abr23