

REPORT on context and needs assessment in the



POPULATION IN SITUATION OF MIGRATION IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF NECOCLÍ, ANTIOQUIA

PRESENTATION

This report is the result of a context and needs analysis exercise with the migrant population in transit as well as some families with vocation for permanence in the municipality of Necoclí, to explore their main risks, needs, and vulnerability situations.

To carry out the exercise, social research techniques were applied, using the following methodologies:

Observation: Through which situations that affect the migrant population in transit during their stay in the municipality were identified, as well as the difficulties that complicate progress in their journey to other destinations.

Review of secondary sources: Reports and documents prepared by the Interagency Group of Mixed Migratory Flows - GIFMM of Urabá were analyzed.

Inquiry: Using three instruments: structured surveys created in kobo, interviews with key informants and focus groups with children and/or adolescents and with mothers, fathers and/or other adult caregivers.

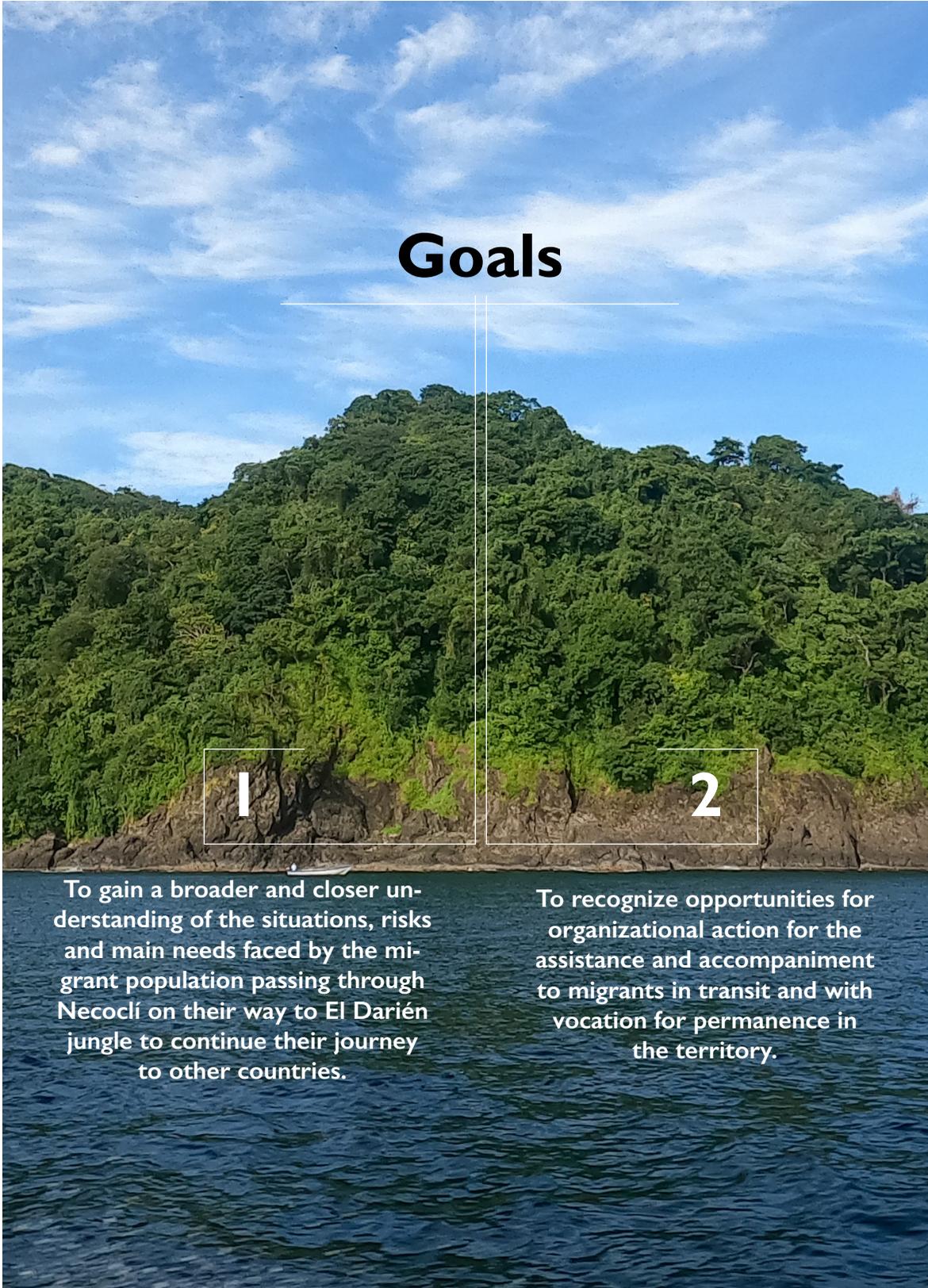
Surveys: Through the application of a structured survey created in kobo, some of the people in transit were asked to answer a series of questions about their needs and risks, as well as the organizations present along the way, their time of arrival in the country, their destination, and other variables, which are listed in this report. For the migrant population with the intention of staying, inputs from the post-distribution surveys of the support deliveries provided by the organization were used.

Interviews with key informants: Dialogues were established with local government representatives and organizations on the actions being carried out with the migrant population, their perception of needs, risks, and opportunities for assistance.

Focus groups: We inquired about the characteristics of the households, reasons for migration, current situation of the families, protection risks, needs, expectations and recommendations.

The identification process was carried out during the months of July and August. During the development of project activities, the instruments designed for the survey were applied.

Goals



1

To gain a broader and closer understanding of the situations, risks and main needs faced by the migrant population passing through Necoclí on their way to El Darién jungle to continue their journey to other countries.

2

To recognize opportunities for organizational action for the assistance and accompaniment to migrants in transit and with vocation for permanence in the territory.

SOCIAL CONTEXT



- 71,012 foreigners in irregular transit through the Panama-Colombia border (Jan - Jul 2022) - 63% Venezuelan and 37% other nationalities¹.
- Migratory flow increased by 31% at the border with Colombia according to preliminary migration figures. In June: 15,633 and in July: 22,582 (the highest figure so far for 2022)².
- 85% of the migrant population are adults and 15% are under 18 years of age. Out of the adults, 74% are men and 26% are women.

Regarding child protection, the risks of labor and sexual exploitation (by armed groups), extortion, abuse and intimidation are concerning. These risks are associated with situations of family separation due to local gaps that prevent the identification and activation of the assistance pathway for separated and unaccompanied children (Panama reports more than 170). Risk of statelessness.

- According to UNICEF data from Panama, unaccompanied children and/or adolescents have been reported on their way through El Darien jungle.
- In that country, DNA tests are being carried out, which take 3 months, time during which the girls and boys must remain in the territory.
- There are no clear mechanisms to verify relation.
- Lack of information on rights and lack of knowledge of institutional offerings.

- Threat and vulnerability factors along the way.
- Recruitment of the population under 18 years of age by illegal armed groups along the way, who deceive families with false promises of work (IOM). In terms of water, sanitation, and hygiene, due to restrictions of the water treatment plant, the local supply capacity is limited; thus, the supply through water tanks is shared between refugees, migrants, and the host population.

¹Zambrano, Laura, (UNHCR); Gaviria, Emilio (UNHCR); Franco Carlos (OIM) (GIFMM), August 26, 2022 - Mixed movements in transit in the Urabá region (from January to July) - Report by Interagency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela.

²Gaviria Emilio, (UNHCR); Franco, Carlos (OIM), Moreno Cristian (GIFMM-IM), (August 11, 2022). Meeting notes GIFMM Satellite URABÁ -GT FMM.

CONTEXTO SOCIAL



- Refugees and migrants at risk of retention in Necoclí.
- Limited capacity for short-term shelter and food.
- Increase in non-regulated maritime transport routes.
- Lack of resources and institutional capacity to respond to contingency plan related to mixed movements³.

It has been identified that women are joining groups of men to have protection during their transit. This situation is a cause for concern because migrant women are more likely to be victims of GBV (WV).

- PAHO's Health Situation Report identifies medical emergencies, chronic diseases, pregnant women without prenatal checkups, ARD and ARI in children and psychiatric patients.
- Gaps in the primary health care response, due to the significant needs related to the vulnerability profile of the population in a situation of human mobility that does not have a vocation for permanence (SITREP extra-continental migration, May 2022)⁴.

Formation of an inter-agency group on mixed migratory flows. GIFMM Urabá Satellite, with the participation of several agencies that carry out humanitarian response efforts such as UNHCR, Caritas Germany, CRC, CRCSA, HIAS, Mercy Corps, IOM, PAHO, Pastoral Social Ministry of Apartadó, WFP, Profamilia, UNFPA, UNICEF, World Vision. Observer organizations: JRS, ADRA, Terre des hommes, ICRC, UN Women, Doctors Without Borders, NRC, IRC, UNFPA, OCHA, Salto Ángel Association, Samaritan's Purse, MAPP OAS, PADF, Pazos Foundation, and Actalliance.

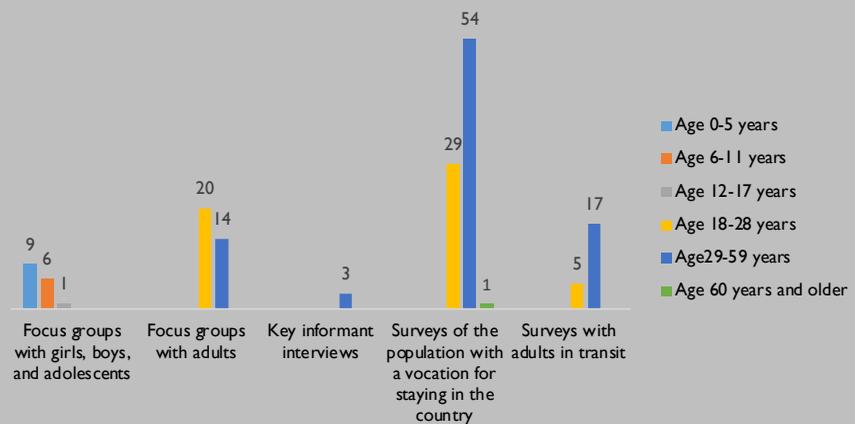
³GIFMM Capacity and gaps analysis: Risk of retention of refugees and migrants in transit through Necoclí (Antioquia) (July 27, 2022).

⁴Pan American Health Organization and World Health Organization (May 2022). Health Cluster Colombia SITREP 3 - SITREP Extra-continental migration.



PARTICIPANT POPULATION

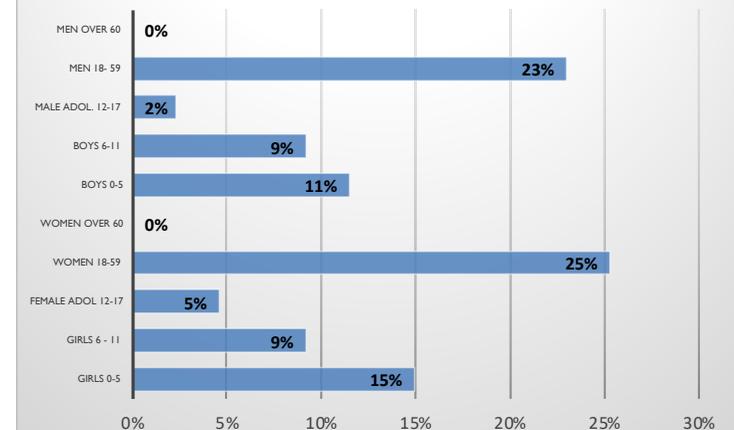
Age distribution of participants in each methodology



Participant population

Tools	0 - 5 years		6 - 11 years		12 - 17 years		18 - 28 years		29 - 59 years		60 years and older		Total
	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	W	M	
Focus groups with children and adolescents	4	5	1	5	1	0							16
Focus groups with adults							12	8	6	8			34
Surveys with adults in transit							5		17				22
Surveys of the population with a vocation for staying in the country					1		26	3	42	12		1	85
Key informant interviews									2	1			3
Total	4	5	1	5	2	0	43	11	67	21	0	1	160

Participants by age group



Overall, 160 people participated in the different methodologies applied in this social research, with the highest proportion of participants being between 29 and 59 years old. Ten percent (10%) were children and adolescents, and ninety percent (90%) were adult women and men.

The highest age range is made up of women and men between 18 and 59 years of age, with 48%. Children from 0 to 5 years of age make up 26% of the households, followed by children from 6 to 11 years of age with 18%. The adolescent population, with 7%, is in a smaller proportion. The survey sample did not identify people over 60 years of age.

Contributions and conclusions from focus groups with girls, boys and/or adolescents

✔ What they like the most

- Most of the participants expressed that they like the sea, being at the beach and going to the “Red Cross”.
- Some children mentioned that they like nature, animals, and flowers.
- Others mentioned that they like to play and have fun.

✘ What they do not like

- Quitting school.
- Giving up sports activities they used to do in their home country.
- Some miss their relatives, their former home and country of origin.
- Transferring buses from different countries, due to the long journeys, causing fatigue and/or health problems. Others said they were victims of robbery:
 - “I didn’t like that they stole from me” / “I didn’t like that they stole from my cousin, that hurts me”.
 - “They stole our money for breakfast, we asked for money and some food”.
 - A boy who managed to undertake the journey through the Darien Jungle with his parents and siblings, stated: “I don’t like the forest” / “the shadow, a monster that has two mermaid heads”.
 - Other participants made comments reaffirming their fears about the risks to which they are exposed: “The mountain of death” / “The mountain of Darien” / “The forest” / “What I don’t like is that people die out there in the jungle of Darien”, “We must get money, to go through the jungle, where people die, children die, where they starve to death”.
 - They acknowledge other hazards such as “the snakes, tigers, mosquitoes.”
 - One girl pointed out that she does not like: “the moon” referring to her fear of the dark, fear at night, among other risks, given that they temporarily sleep in a tent on the beach or under a half-built pier during their stay in Necoclí.
 - “A little while ago we slept in the tent, with nothing, just a few blankets. And today we slept in the tents, it rained but we didn’t get wet”. “The house in Colombia, was broken, the roof got wet.” “The forest, the neighbors who smoke, and the bus”.
- Some expressed that they are not allowed to bathe in the sea because of the oil spilled from the boats.



Risks perceived by girls, boys and/or adolescents

The girls and boys clearly mentioned risks associated with protection, biological, health and safety risks that they may encounter along the way, due to the presence of wild animals, bites, the fact of crossing the river, and they stated that they were afraid of crossing El Darien jungle. However, some do not understand the real dimension of the life threats and dangers to their integrity.

“We have to pass through where there are alligators. We must pass through the bad monkeys”.

“We have to walk a lot”.

“On the road they bite a lot”.

“There are many mosquitoes, big rivers, and tigers”.

“Something touching my feet, something eating my feet, a shark”.

“There are alligators in the jungle when you walk by the rivers”.

“No fear, I am a warrior”.

“We can be bitten by snakes”.

“The bugs”.

“There are people who rape people, women, children, in the jungle”.

“We must run faster; a boy and a girl crossed the jungle”.

“I don't have any boots”.



Needs of girls, boys and/or adolescents

When asked about the most pressing needs, most of the participants pointed out all the options, confirming that they are subjects of rights and therefore it is a priority to guarantee each of their rights without exception.

Below are some sentences that express their needs:

“I want accommodation, food and to study”.

“Housing, food, and school. Also, the Red Cross”.

“Sea, games, love, and housing. I want to go to the doctor. I also want to go to school”.

“I like things for painting”.

“I like my mother’s affection”.

“I want food, to study and to play”.

“Spaces to play, I need health, I need protection”.

“I need everything”.

““We need some notebooks; writing is fun for me”.

“I like fish, cheese, eggs and apples”.

“My mom always gives me hugs”.

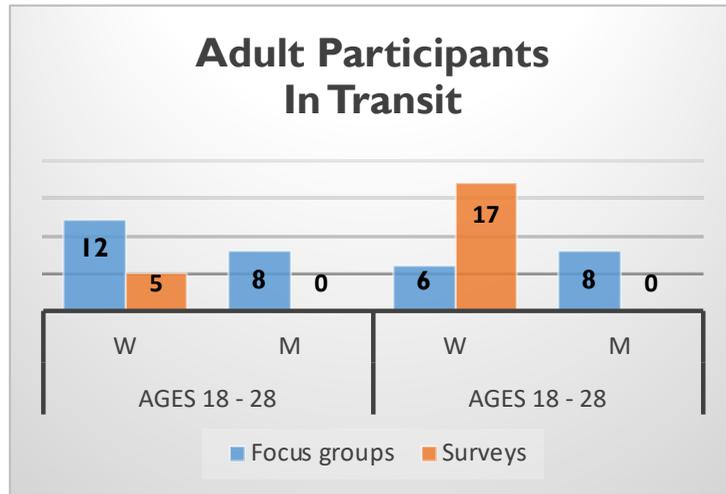


Opportunities for humanitarian response

- Strengthening child-friendly spaces with topics of comprehensive child protection and assistance pathways for migrant population.
- Improving coordination channels with other entities to provide legal consulting or guidance to families in transit.
- It is recommended to continue planning the handing out of vouchers or single-delivery cards to cover needs for food, WASH, hygiene or home supplies to migrant families in transit, due to the multiple vulnerabilities they face during their stay in Necoclí.
- Because of the continuous changes in the context, taking into account the precarious social conditions migrant families in transit face when they are located on the beach, along with the eviction measures taken by the local government, it is recommended to include a coordinated strategy in the programing to provide temporary support for accommodation, food and psychosocial accompaniment to families planning to continue their journey that fulfill the vulnerability criteria.
- Reinforcing actions of public advocacy towards the local, department and/or national governments to guarantee comprehensive protection of children and adolescents in situations of human mobility. It is fundamental that the authorities in charge to optimize their capacity to manage and have a better compliance with the responsibilities given by law, in order to ensure the minimum principles of protection and reestablishment of rights of girls, boys and adolescents.
- In case that the organization decides to establish a work plan with migrant families that have settled in the territory, it is suggested these are focused on projects for livelihoods, child protection, accompaniment in the access and permanence in education for girls, boys and adolescents, as well as offering legal assistance.



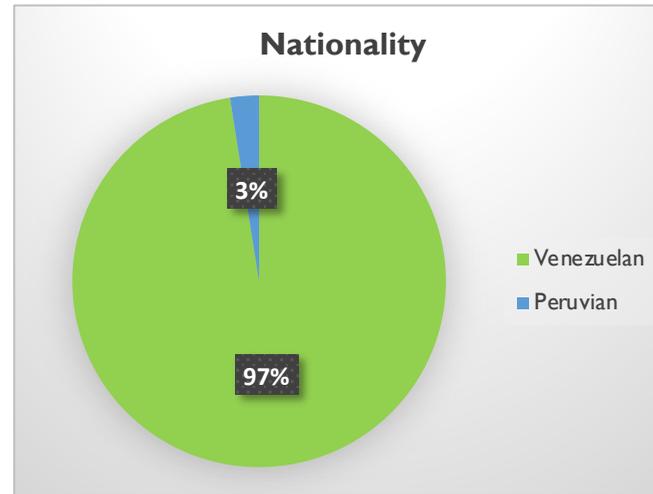
GENERAL ASPECTS



Three focus groups were carried out with adults, one with women, one with men and one mixed, with a total of 34 participants (18 women and 16 men).

Regarding the surveys, only 22 women participated.

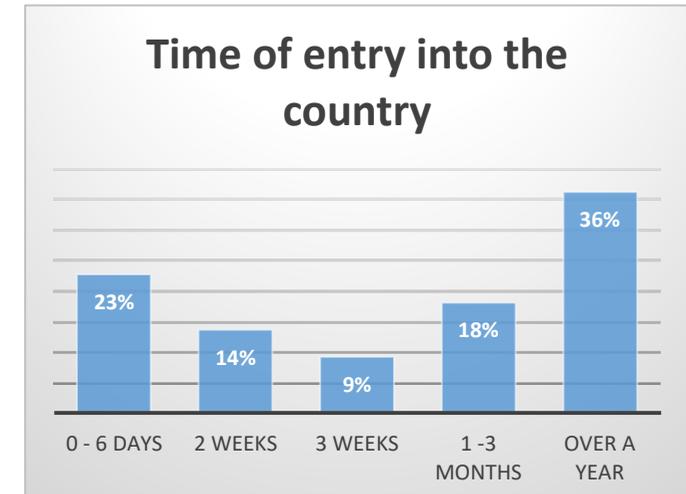
Considering the two methodologies, a total of 40 women (71%) and 16 men (29%) participated.



The nationality of 97% (55) was Venezuelan (39 women and 16 men) and 3% (1 woman) was Peruvian.

Relevant data:

Of the 22 people (18%) who were surveyed, only four (4) are registered under the temporary protection status and one (5%) has initiated the process for refugee status recognition.

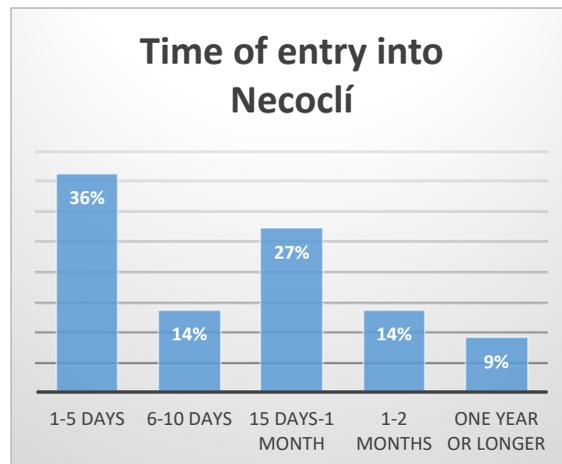


A total of 36% (8) of the people surveyed stated that they have been in the country for more than a year, which indicates that they have been moving internally from different municipalities.

The 18% (4) between 1 to 3 months.

A total of 46% (10) have entered the country more recently.

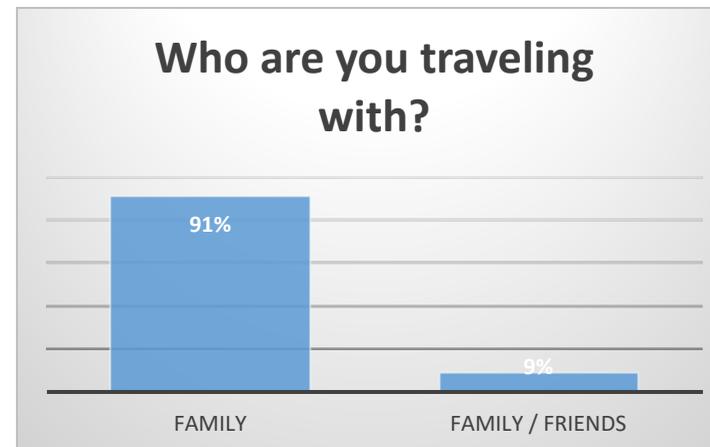
GENERAL ASPECTS



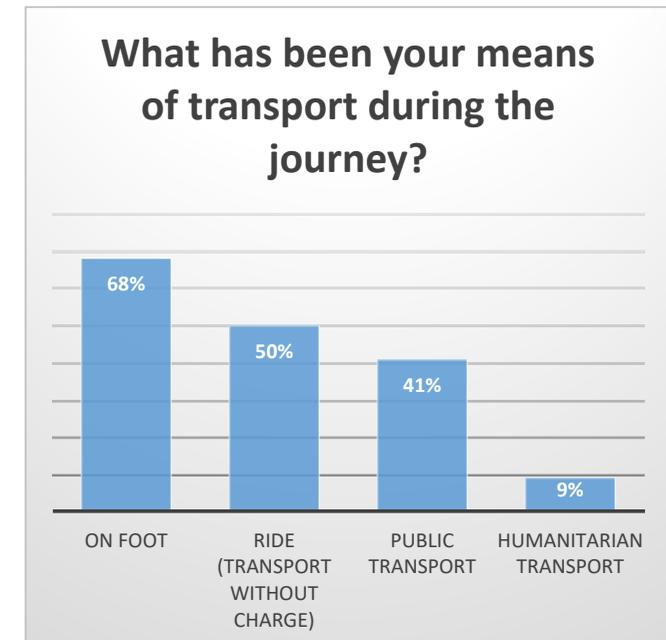
About 36% (8) have been in the municipality for 1 to 5 days. Some 14% (3) have been in the municipality for 6 to 10 days. Half of the population surveyed (50%) stated that they have been in the territory for more than 15 days, which shows the difficulties associated with their journey.

Focus group data:

All participants stated that they were migrants in transit. The women mentioned that they were staying on the beach, living as homeless people on the streets between two months and a minimum of one week. The adult men expressed that they had been in the municipality for fifteen days and others for a week or two days. In the mixed focus group, the time span ranged from one week to one month.

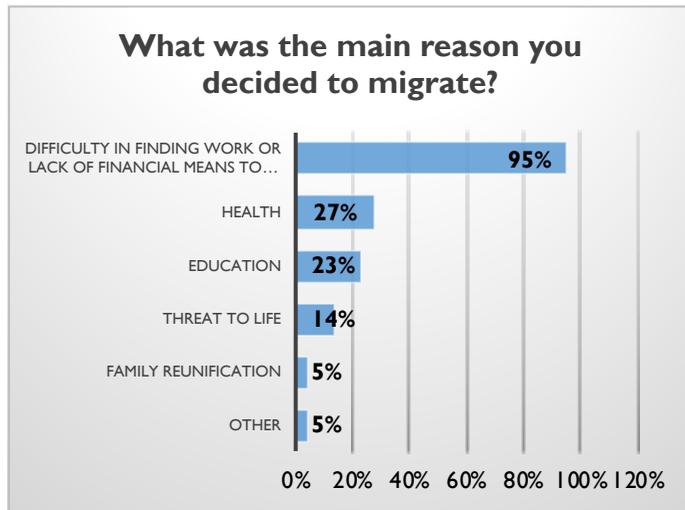


One hundred percent (22) of the people surveyed indicated that they are accompanied by their family, and some also mentioned the company of friends. 45% of the households are made up of 4 members. Thirty-six percent (36%) are made up of 3 people and 19% of those surveyed reported 5 or more members of the family in transit.

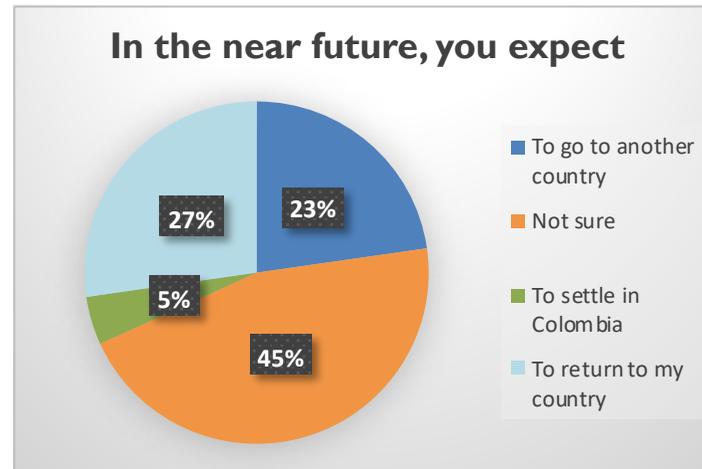


In the focus groups, most of the participants stated that they come with their families, some mothers/fathers alone with their sons/daughters, however, due to their long stay in the municipality they have established friendships with other families; and a few traveled alone. A total of 68% (15) of the people surveyed have had to walk long stretches along the road. 50% (11) have found other means of transportation. 41% (9) were able to pay for public transportation on some stretches. Only 9% (2) obtained humanitarian support for transportation.

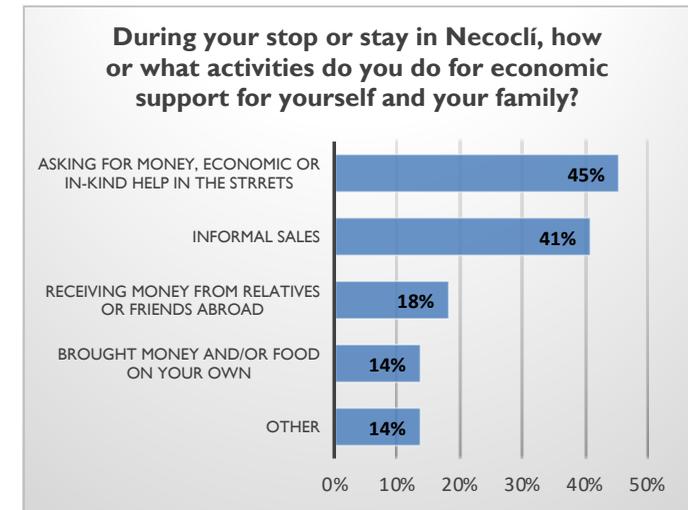
GENERAL ASPECTS



Ninety-five percent (21) of the people surveyed stated that their reason for migrating was the difficulty in finding work, which generates a shortage of resources to meet their needs. Twenty-seven percent (6) mentioned barriers to accessing health services. Education was mentioned by 23% (5). The rest of the population alluded to other factors, such as threats to their lives, family reunification or desires to improve their quality of life. In the focus groups, women stated that they migrated for their children, to look for a better future and a home. Men agreed with these reasons.



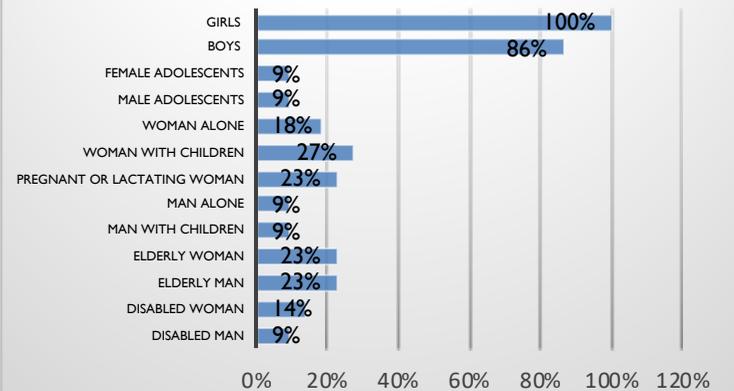
A total of 45% (10) indicated that they are not sure what they hope to do in the future. 27% (6) indicated that they would like to return to their country. 23% (5) stated that they would like to continue their journey to another country. In the focus groups, some people mentioned they would like to return to their country, but the conditions do not allow for it, therefore, they prefer to continue exploring other opportunities to improve their life quality. Other participants are firm in their decision to continue advancing on their journey to other countries.



As part of the activities to make a living during their stay in Necoclí, 45% (10) stated that they ask for money or help in kind on the streets. Forty-one percent (9) of the people surveyed said they engage in informal sales. Eighteen percent (4) receive money from relatives or friends abroad. The rest brought money or food, have jobs in various trades or personal businesses. Similarly, in the focus groups, participants reported that to obtain economic resources they ask for money in restaurants or on the streets, sell candy on the streets, and some engage in recycling activities. Through these activities they acquire income for at least one meal a day for adults and two meals a day for children. There are times when they can only eat once a day.

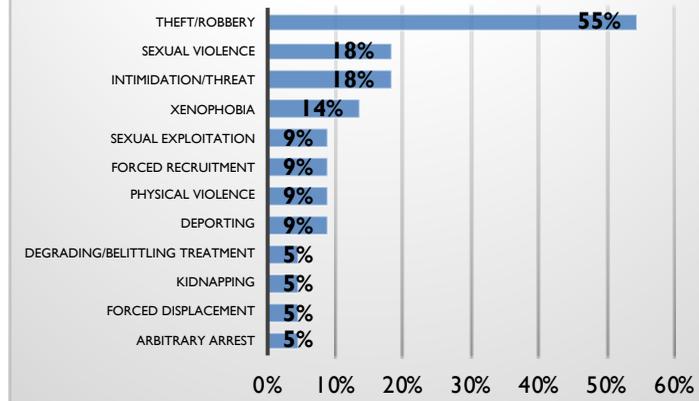
GENERAL ASPECTS

Who do you consider faces greater risks during the journey?



100% of the surveyed people think that girls are more prone to face risks. Followed by boys, with 86%. According to the graph, in general terms, the most vulnerable people, and with a greater risk on the route besides girls and boys are women with children, on their own, pregnant, lactating and with disabilities, elderly people and men with disabilities.

Main risks girls, boys and adolescents are exposed to during the journey

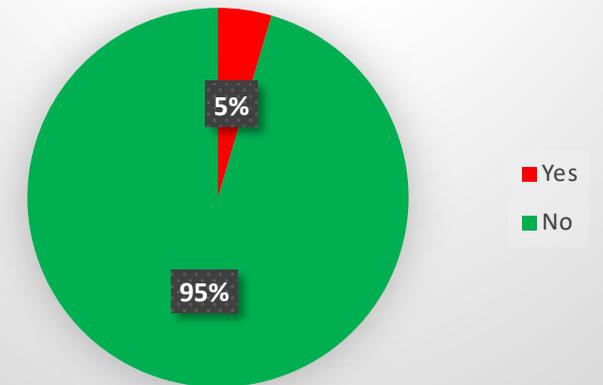


55% (12) of the people surveyed claimed that theft/robbery is the main risk for girls, boys and/or adolescents. 18% (4) indicated sexual violence, and other 18% intimidation/threat; 14% (3) mentioned xenophobia.

In smaller percentages, they referred to other risks such as forced recruitment, physical violence, deporting, belittling treatment and arbitrary arrest.

As a part of the main risks faced by children, the women who participated in the focus group presented situations related to health (respiratory infections, diarrhea, among others), due to the inadequate conditions they face during the journey, changes in the weather; this along with stress, weariness and bad diet. On the other hand, both women and men talked about diverse displays of violence, theft and xenophobia that greatly affect girls, boys and adolescents.

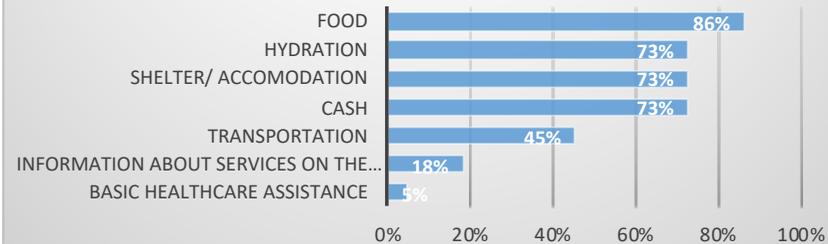
Have you identified any girls/boys travelling alone along the route?



5% claimed having identified a child alone on the route. When asking about the actions carried out about this fact, the participant surveyed indicated that she gave guidance, support with food and accompaniment.

GENERAL ASPECTS

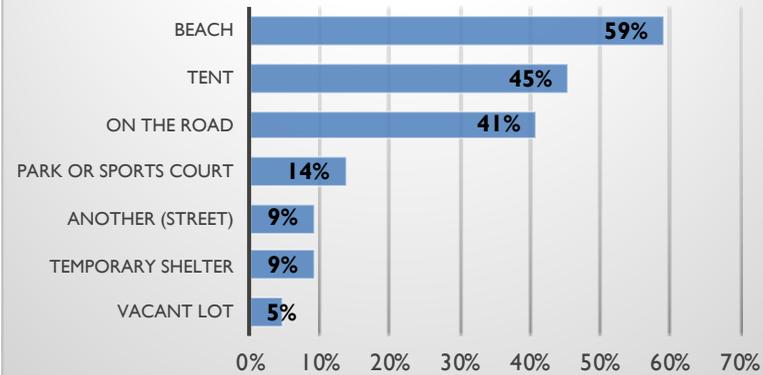
From your experience, What are the main needs of the migrant and returning people during their journey in transit?



Among the needs reported by the people surveyed, 86% (19) is shown for food. 73% is shared by hydration, accommodation and cash. 45% pointed out that they require transportation. 18% claimed that they need information about services on the route. In a minor scale, 5% referred to basic healthcare services.

Adult participants in the focus group claimed that the most prevalent needs are food and accommodation. Families that stay on the beach expressed that they require tents. Others mentioned medicines and cash to satisfy their basic needs.

What places have you spent the night along the route?

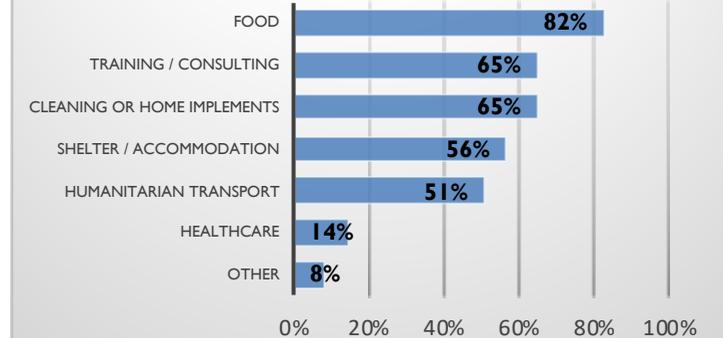


59% (13) of the people who received the survey claimed that they have stayed on the beach, referring to their stay in Necoclí. Similarly, 45% mentioned a tent.

14% mentioned a park or sports court. Another 14% indicated they stayed in the Street or a vacant lot. 9% said a temporary shelter.

At the moment of carrying out the focus groups, most of the participants were staying on the beach, since they do not have the means to stay in hotels or pay a rent. What little money they get, they use to buy food and another part they save for river transportation.

Needs to improve humanitarian response for migrant population with vocation for permanence in Necoclí



82% (70) points out food as the priority need for their families. 65% is shared by needs for training/consulting and cleaning items or home supplies.

56% said accommodation.

51% said humanitarian transport

14% commented about healthcare needs, due to the barriers to access medical services, obtain medicines or high complexity procedures.

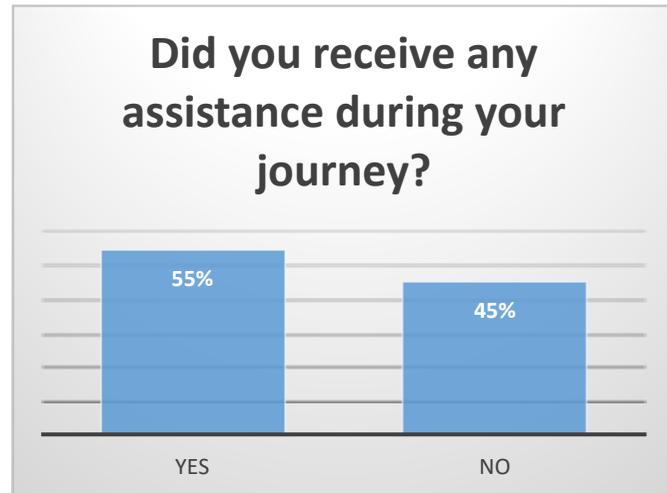
8% referred to other needs, which are listed below:

Employment opportunities

Support for business ventures

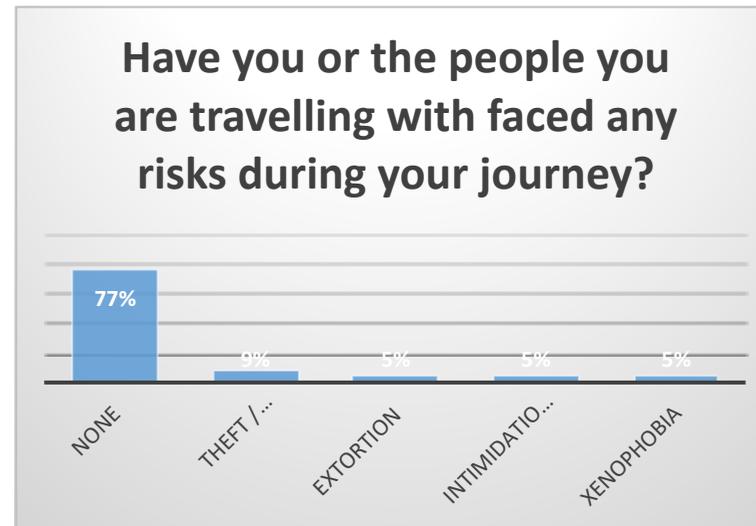
Legal consulting to process the temporary protection status for migrants

GENERAL ASPECTS



Fifty-five percent (12) of the respondents stated that they have received assistance from humanitarian organizations, mainly in the form of hygiene kits. Secondly, some mentioned that they have been supported with food and others mentioned that they have been supported with shelter.

Forty-five percent (10) have not received any type of support. In the focus groups, some participants expressed that they received support in other countries and cities during their journey (hygiene kits and food).



It is shown that 77% (17) of the population does not perceive any risks along their journey. 9% (2) claimed risk related to theft/robbery. 15% (3) mentioned other risks such as extortion, intimidation/threat and xenophobia.

In the focus groups, the risk prioritized by the women's group was xenophobia, some of them even claimed situations of mistreatment and lack of assistance by police authorities and humanitarian organizations (IOM). Another risk pointed out by the participants was the exposure to sexual violence and health problems, especially in girls and boys.

Men also mentioned discrimination, forms of violence and physical risks, and they also emphasized the cost of tickets for speedboats and theft they have experienced on their journey to arrive in Necoclí.



THANK

We thank all those who made this experience possible, especially the girls, boys, adolescents, women, and men in a situation of migration in the municipality of Necoclí, who despite the conditions were willing to share their experiences and perceptions, always expressing a word of recognition towards the organization. To the partners who welcomed us and shared their views on the situation, risks, and expectations of people in human mobility with openness and trust. To each of WV Central Office's technical teams, who, through their knowledge and skills, were committed to guiding and accompanying each challenge in the analysis carried out. To the National Direction, Operations Management, Caribbean Region Management and Operations Leader for their permanent support in this process. To the Social Development Professionals in the territory, for their commitment and diligence in the collection of primary information to carry out this important mission.

Sources consulted

1. Zambrano, Laura, (UNHCR); Gaviria, Emilio (UNHCR); Franco Carlos (IOM) (GIFMM), August 26th, 2022 – Mixed movements in transit in the región of Uraba (from January to July) – Report from the Interagency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela.
2. Gaviria Emilio, (UNHCR); Franco, Carlos (OIM), Moreno Cristian (GIFMM-IM), (August 11, 2022). Meeting notes GIFMM Satellite URABÁ -GT FMM.
3. GIFMM Capacity and Gaps Analysis: Risk of retention of refugees and migrants in transit in Necoclí (Antioquia). (July 27th, 2022).
4. Pan American Health Organization and World Health Organization (May, 2022). Colombia Health Cluster SITREP 3 – SITREP Extra-continental Migration
5. UNHCR – Taken from <https://www.unhcr.org/libelong/es/que-es-la-apatridial>