

HIGHLIGHTS



In the Los Planes MRS, in Chiriquí, there has been a drop in the number of migrants entering daily from Darién (274 people on average), as a result of the existing overload at the station and the containment measures requested by the station managers to their counterparts in Darién. As of the date of the report, 1,269 migrants were sheltered at the MRS.



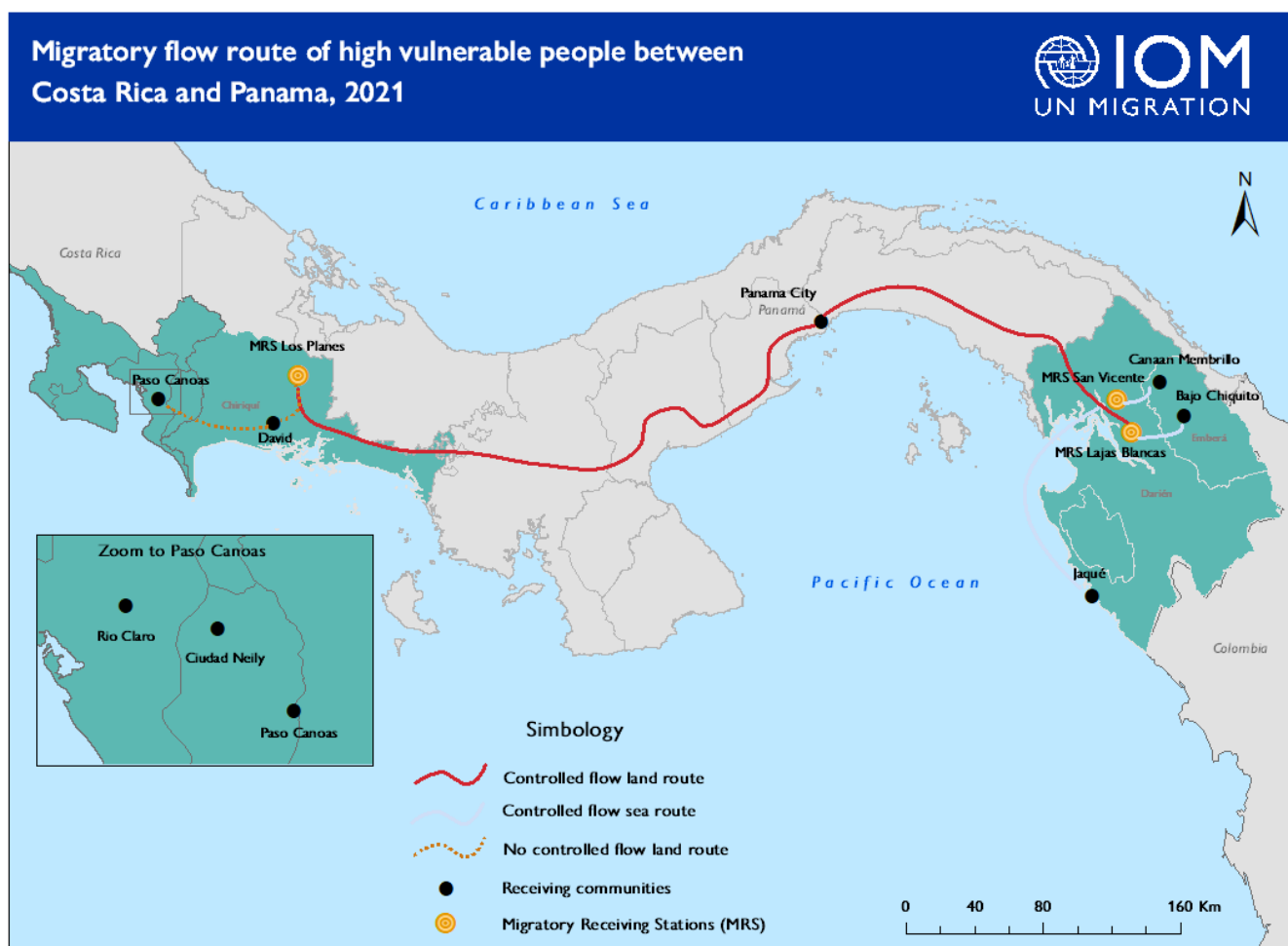
According to interviews with migrants, in recent weeks the Pacific maritime route has become more popular than the route through the Darién jungle because migrants have more information about the dangers of crossing the jungle. However, this route is also considered dangerous by key informants.



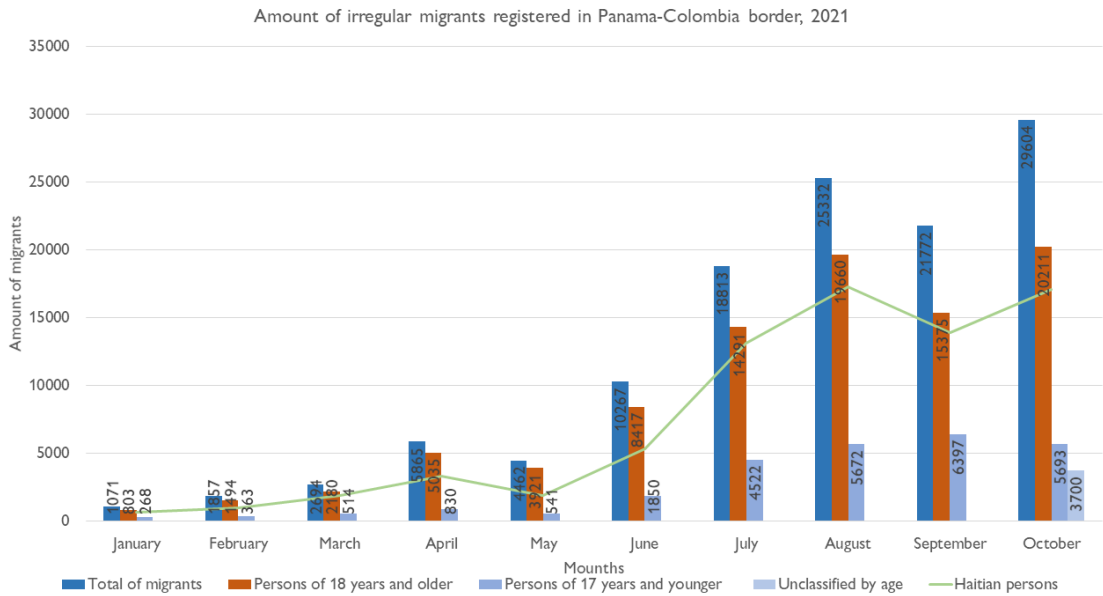
In Paso Canoas, the entry of migrants continues to be highly represented by Haitians and Cubans. However, in the first weeks of November, there has been an increase in the number of Asian nationals, mostly from Bangladesh and Uzbekistan.



In Río Claro, there continues to be a concentration of migrants who intend to travel to San José, Costa Rica. However, the area continues to be characterized by a high incidence of smuggling networks and scams targeting the migrant population.



CONTEXT OF THE SITUATION



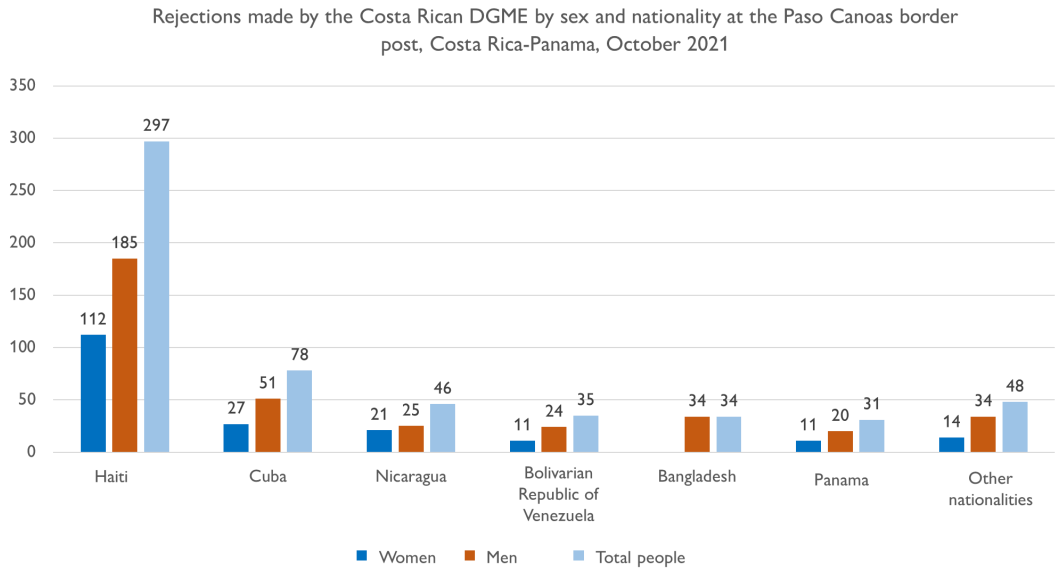
Source: Government of Panama, 2021

The migration flow of extraregional migrants transiting through Central America to North America continues to increase. In Panama, according to data from the National Migration Service (SNM), between January and October 2021, 121,737 migrants of various nationalities such as Haiti (62%), Cuba (13%), Chile (8%), Brazil (7%), Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (2%), among other countries in South America, Africa and Asia, have entered Panama irregularly at the border between Panama and Colombia. People identified as nationals from Chile and Brazil are descendants of Haitian migrants born in those countries.

The Governments of Panama and Costa Rica have prepared a plan for the potential reactivation of Operation Controlled Flow between the two countries. This plan includes the regulated transit from the southern border to the northern border of Costa Rica by the Professional Migration Police

(PPME). However, as of the date of this report, there is no approximate date for the implementation of the Binational Operation Controlled Flow.

In Costa Rica, the Municipal Council of Corredores has requested the presence of authorities from the General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners (DGME) and the Puntarenas representatives in the Legislative Assembly to address the migration situation that is occurring at the border as a result of the unordered entry of highly vulnerable migrants.



Source: Government of Costa Rica, 2021

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE



WATER SUPPLY, HYGIENE AND SANITATION

- At the Los Planes MRS, the aqueduct system collapsed by 80 percent, leaving the station without water supply for a large number of people. The National Migration System (SNM) has delivered bottled water to the migrant population, since there were no hydration points set up. Migrants do not use showers for personal hygiene, mainly because the water flow in them is scarce and they are practically unusable. Likewise, as an alternative measure, the SNM has enabled the use of a creek near the station to be used by migrants to bathe and wash their clothes, although it is not a safe place for the entire population.
- In Río Claro, the problem of inadequate solid waste management persists, especially in the vicinity of the bus stop.



HEALTH

- There is still a need for permanent medical assistance in the Los Planes MRS and transit areas such as Paso Canoas due to the constant cases of migrants (especially children) with skin lesions and respiratory illnesses.



FOOD SAFETY AND NUTRITION

- At the Los Planes MRS, there is a need to provide specialized food for infants under 3 years of age.
- Currently at the MRS there is no cutlery and crockery available for use by migrants. Instead, each person must bring their own utensils.



PROTECTION

- During the first weeks of November at the Los Planes MRS, there have been cases of migrants consuming alcohol and drugs inside the station's facilities. It has been identified that some people are the ones who carry the substances and it has also been identified that these same migrants sell the drugs to other migrants.
- In Río Claro, the presence of criminal networks dedicated to illicit smuggling, scams and drug sales to migrants has been detected.
- The trend of travel groups made up of families continues, particularly in recent weeks, a greater number of female heads of household have been identified traveling with their children.



Migrants in Río Claro, Costa Rica. © IOM 2021

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