

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) presents the main findings of a survey addressed to migrants (in their home countries or residing, potential or in transit) of Central America and Mexico. The main objective is to generate data for the analysis of the COVID-19 repercussions on migrant population that can guide the response of the multiple actors involved in health response, migration management and strategies for socioeconomic recovery. This document summarizes the main results of the survey. The entire document is available at <http://rosanjose.iom.int/site/>

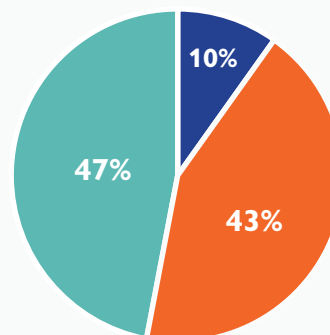
## ▶ Main findings



### THE PANDEMIC CHANGED THE MIGRATORY PLANS OF MOST PEOPLE

Main reasons that affected people's migration project with the intention to migrate

- Migration plans were canceled due to the pandemic
- Migration plans were postponed due to the pandemic
- Migration plans were postponed for the pandemic



### MIGRATION PLANS ARE POSTPONED, NOT CANCELED

Most people (**84%**) would consider this option again when mobility restrictions are normalized. It seems to indicate that the pandemic has only postponed the migration project.



### WILLINGNESS TO RETURN HAS INCREASED

**1 out of 5 migrants** is considering to return to their home countries.



If economic conditions don't improve in their destination countries, it's very probable that a number of migrants will return to their home countries, once borders are reopened. This would result in some challenges for their socioeconomic reintegration.



## SOCIOECONOMIC EFFECTS



**4 out of 10 migrant employees** noticed that their salary or working hours were reduced due to the pandemic.



**Half of the consulted people** lost their jobs due to the emergency.



**4 out of 10 migrants** needed to stop sending remittances.



**8 out of 10 migrant people** who regularly send remittances reduced the amount due to loss of income.



**12% of migrant employees** work in health or social services. Women working in these areas double the number of men in this group.



**2 out of 3 migrants mentioned** they have people who economically depend on them in the same or other country.

▶ These conditions may impact the decision of staying in the destination country or returning to their home country.



## NEED TO FACILITATE REMITTANCES

The survey shows important data regarding unemployment and the reduction of their working hours. Both conditions have affected the capacity of migrant workers to send remittances to their home countries and their opportunities to stay in their resident country. It is essential that governments and financial institutions create plans to minimize costs and facilitate processes to send remittances.



## HEALTH EFFECTS



**99% of the people** report to be following the health recommendations to prevent Covid-19.



**7% of them** hold suspicions of being COVID-19 positive. **Only a third of them attended health services.**



**6 out of 10 people** report to suffer mental health issues due to the pandemic.

▶ A high percentage of migrants have experienced conditions such as stress, sadness and anxiety. It shows the need to focus on mental health and the effects of those conditions, but also the need to define some strategies and actions to provide psychosocial support tools to institutions that work with migrants.



## AN INCREASE IN VULNERABILITIES

It's possible that the pandemic has increased the existing vulnerable conditions that affect migrants such as their risk to be exploited or cheated.



### 9 out of 10 unemployed migrants

are afraid to be cheated or exploited when looking for a new job opportunity.



### 8 out of 10 people

living in their home country would take the risk of being hired abroad without being informed accordingly/appropriately.



## RESILIENCE STRATEGIES



### 22% of the migrants became entrepreneurs

(most of them informally after losing their job)

#### ENTREPRENEURSHIP AREAS:

- ▶ **Women:**  
Food, and commerce.
- ▶ **Men:**  
Commerce, building, mechanics, electronics, tailoring, telecommunications and transportation.



## MIGRANTS AS PART OF THE CHANGE:

Migrants has shown to be resilient, and they are following all health recommendations to prevent Covid-19. As part of the recovery plan, it's important to work on the elimination of ideas that result in discrimination and xenophobia towards migrants.

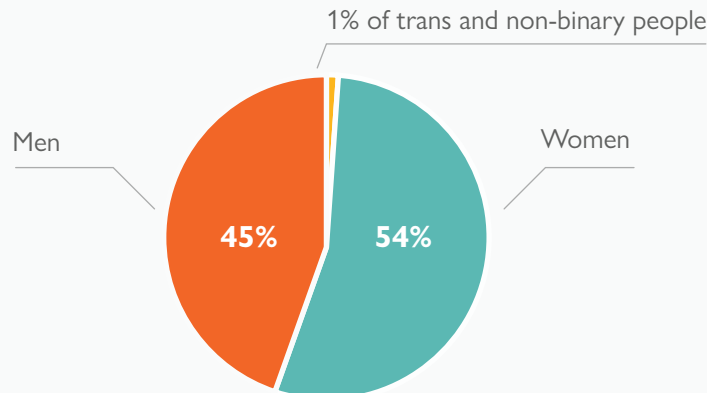
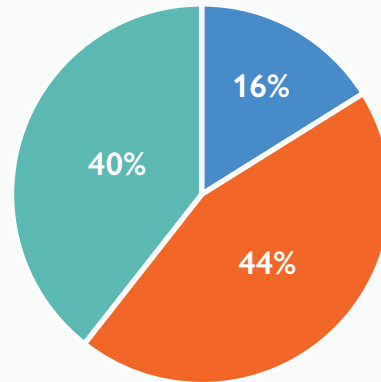


## METHODOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS

This survey collected **1,660 responses through an online questionnaire** during the month of June 2020. Responses were divided into the participation of **45% of men, 54% women and 1% non-binary people** who are mostly from 26 to 45 years old (61%). The results are not representative or generalizable.

### Participants Profile:

- Extra-regional immigrants in Central America and Mexico
- Emigrants from Central America and Mexico
- Nationals from Central America and Mexico with the intention of migrating



### Nationalities



Honduras  
**28%**



El Salvador  
**23%**



Nicaragua  
**15%**



Guatemala  
**11%**



Cuba  
**6%**



Others  
**17%**