

## CONTEXT OF THE SITUATION

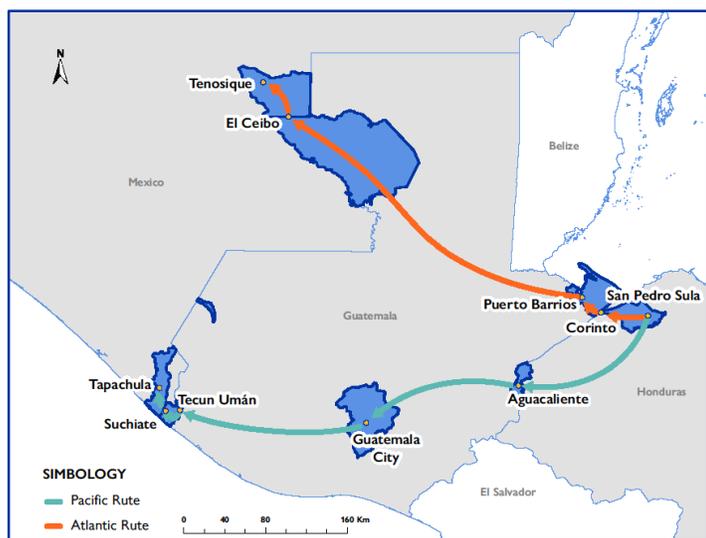
### Identified migrants



<sup>1</sup> Migrants who have been seized and accounted for by government authorities for irregular entry. Data represent the minimum of irregular income accounted for.

Source: National Institute of Migration (INM).

### Migratory routes



On January 15, a new migrant caravan with at least 800 people heading for North American countries was announced to leave San Pedro Sula, Honduras. The caravan is divided into two migratory routes: Pacific and Atlantic, where a majority moves along the Pacific route to access Mexican territory through the state of Chiapas, municipality Suchiate, Ciudad Hidalgo. It should be noted that after the announcement of the formation of the Honduran caravan, groups were organized that left from El Salvador and Guatemala.

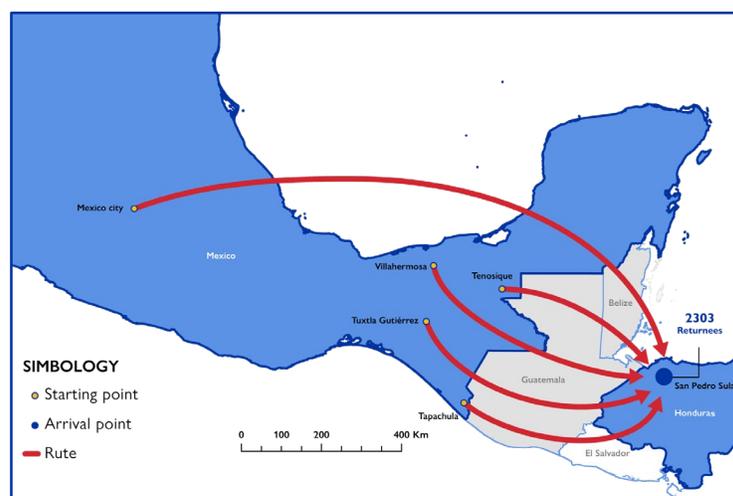
As of January 17, a contingent of people began to gather in the border community of Tecún Umán, Municipality of Ayutla, Guatemala, to enter Mexico through Suchiate. On the other hand, from the border of El Ceibo, Tenosique, 700 people showed up to register their entry.

On Saturday, January 18, part of the contingent of people located in Tecun Umán (approximately 2,000) approached the Rodolfo Robles Border Bridge in order to access Mexican territory. In the morning, 663 people were allowed access in groups of 20 and in the afternoon the bridge was opened to return to their daily activities. The rest of the people decided to stay at Tecun Umán, while waiting for more people to join the caravan. Another reason why people decided to stay at Tecun Umán is that there was no clarity about how immigration procedures were being carried out in Mexico.

On January 18, 427 people are allowed to enter Mexico through the El Ceibo border on a regular basis.

On Monday, January 20, the caravan of approximately 4,000 people made the request to enter Mexican territory through Ciudad Hidalgo. The Government of Mexico informed that it would respond in accordance with the migration law, which implies that the people had to remain in the Migratory Station, until their migratory status was determined. Spokespersons for the caravan discussed this response and decided to leave the bridge and cross over the Suchiate River in an irregular and massive manner. At that time, detonations were detected on the bridge and vehicles and National Guard elements were deployed. Clashes occur between the migrant population and elements of the National Guard, and people are reported injured and missing. As a result of the clashes, a large part of the caravan, approximately 1 000 people, decides to return to the Guatemalan side, others are taken in buses to the migratory stations. The people who crossed into Mexican territory and were not stopped at the Suchiate River, were grouped in a group of approximately 700 people and walked towards Tapachula. It is estimated that 200 of these people are children. In the Metapa section, this group of people is intercepted and taken to different migratory stations in the country. On the El Ceibo border, it was reported that 767 people had entered Mexican territory and all of them were transferred to the migrant holding centre. On Wednesday, January 22, migratory institutions officially reported that they had detained around 800 people in Chiapas and 1,300 people in Tabasco.

### Assisted returns by the Government of Mexico



Source: National Institute of Migration (INM).

On Thursday, January 23, in the early morning, approximately 1,500 people were interned in Mexico through the Suchiate River, they advanced to the entrance of the Frontera Hidalgo Municipality highway where they concentrated to rest, in the afternoon an operation was deployed and approximately 850 people were taken to the Siglo XXI Migratory Station.

# MIGRATION PROFILE AND IDENTIFIED NEEDS

## METHODOLOGY



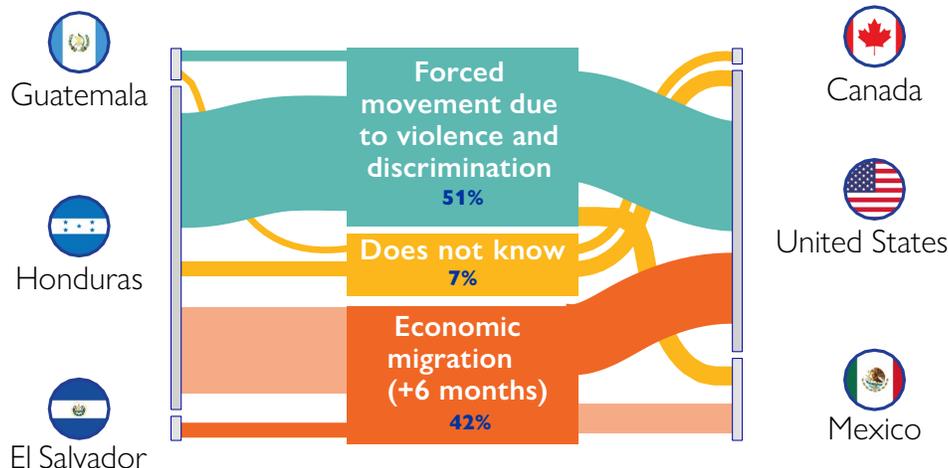
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People interviewed

On Thursday, January 23rd, in the municipality of Frontera Hidalgo, at the point where the people who entered through the Suchiate River in the early morning of the same day were located, IOM carried out an information survey through focus groups for the detection of migratory profiles and identification of needs. It was not possible to access the entire group, so the results do not correspond to a representative sample.

## MIGRATION PROFILE

Sex and age	People at risk of vulnerability	Nationality
<p><b>56%</b> Men over the age of 18</p> <p><b>24%</b> Women over the age of 18</p> <p><b>9%</b> Boys and adolescents under the age of 18</p> <p><b>11%</b> Girls and adolescents under the age of 18</p>	<p><b>7%</b> Boys and girls under the age of 5</p> <p><b>4%</b> Unaccompanied children</p> <p><b>2%</b> Nursing or pregnant women</p> <p><b>4%</b> People with disabilities</p> <p><b>2%</b> People over the age of 60</p> <p><b>22%</b> LGBTI+ population</p>	<p><b>88%</b> Honduras</p> <p><b>6%</b> Guatemala</p> <p><b>4%</b> El Salvador</p> <p><b>1%</b> Haiti</p> <p><b>1%</b> Chile</p>
		Country of arrival
		<p><b>77%</b> United States</p> <p><b>20%</b> Mexico</p> <p><b>3%</b> Canada</p>

Main types of migration flows by country of departure and country of arrival

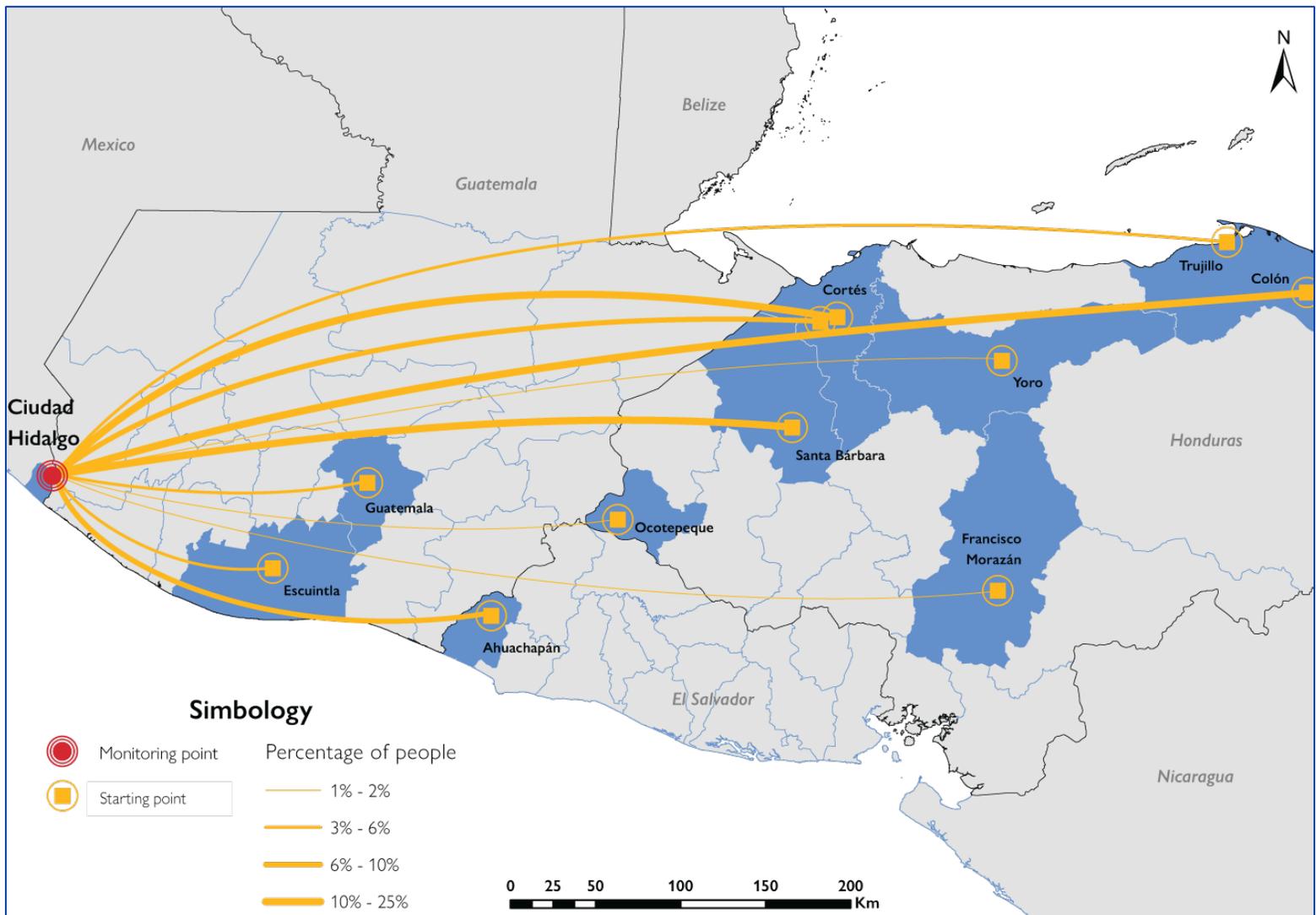




## PROTECTION NEEDS

- A lack of information has been detected in order to access international protection and regularization channels in Mexico, as well as access to services for specialized case care.
- Lack of protection for accompanied and unaccompanied children and adolescents.
- The separation of families during the events that occurred on the Suchiate River was identified.
- From the operations carried out with the use of force, people with medical needs and injured people have been identified.
- People in need of psychological care due to crises of stress, anxiety and other ailments arising from the arrests. The LGBTI+ population reported suffering from discrimination along the migratory route. Furthermore, it was possible to identify possible victims of violence and/or human trafficking.
- Lack of water and food for the migrant population during prolonged periods and under high temperatures. It was possible to identify that most of the migrants presented symptoms of dehydration.

## ORIGIN OF MIGRANTS



## EMERGENCY RESPONSE

IOM Mexico has carried out various actions to respond to and follow up on the migrant caravan. The situation has been monitored at strategic points such as the Rodolfo Robles Bridge, the Suchiate River, the Ciudad Hidalgo-Tapachula highway, the SXXI Migrant Station (single access on Friday, January 24), shelters in Tapachula and concentration points on the transit highways.

In addition to maintaining a network of coordination with organizations and institutions through working groups.

Likewise, based on the monitoring, cases of people with international protection needs and people in vulnerable conditions were recognized and channeled. Eighteen requests for Assisted Voluntary Returns for the transfer of persons from Mexico to Honduras, specifically Omoa, were dealt with. Guidance was provided on access to services and migration regularization processes.

In response to this event, IOM, together with UNHCR, UNICEF, and OHCHR Mexico, publicly expressed their concern about the impact that the migration control operation of January 23 had on children and persons in vulnerable conditions, and urged that family unity be preserved and that those at risk of persecution not be returned and that their asylum procedures be made accessible. They also reiterated their commitment to support the Government of Mexico in these tasks.

As part of the technical strengthening strategy, on Tenosique's side, meetings were held with government institutions in order to learn about the technical needs of the attending actors. They offered to strengthen capacities in the care of unaccompanied migrant children (UMN), health and psychosocial care tools. Communication and coordination were maintained with United Nations agencies and international organizations to follow up and monitor the El Ceibo border caravan.



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