DATA REPORT:

TRENDS IN CARIBBEAN MIGRATION AND MOBILITY

Regional Data Hub (RDH)
Regional Office in San José

IOM
UN MIGRATION

DISCLAIMER AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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COVER PHOTO: "Leaving the camp to evacuation shelter"

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

(ACS)	American Community Survey
CMC	Caribbean Migration Consultations
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CBP	United States Customs and Border Protection
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CReSIS	Center for Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets
CSME	Caribbean Single Market and Economy
CTO	Caribbean Tourism Organization
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
DIOC	Database on Immigrants in OECD Countries
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECUE	Eastern Caribbean Economic Union
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FY	Fiscal year
GCM	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GMDAC	Global Migration Data Analysis Centre
GNI	Gross National Income
HDI	Human Development Index
IDMC	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
ILO	International Labour Organization
ISCO	International Standard Classification of Occupations
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INFORM	Index For Risk Management
IOM	International Organization for Migration
ICE	Immigration and Customs Enforcement
IRCC	Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LAC	Latin America and Caribbean
LDC	Least Developed Country
LPR	Lawful permanent residence
MMP	Missing Migrants Project
MPI	The Migration Policy Institute
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NTMI	Northern Triangle Migration Information Management Initiative
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
R4V	Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela
RMDU	Regional Migration Data Unit, IOM
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small Island Development States
SLR	Sea-level rise
TPS	Temporary Protected Status
UASC	Unaccompanied and separated children
UPMRIP	Unidad de Política Migratoria, Registro e Identidad de Personas, Secretaría de Gobernación, México
UN	United Nations
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
US	United States
USCB	United States Census Bureau
USCBP	United States Customs and Border Protection
USCIS	United States Citizenship and Immigration Services
USCRS	United States Congressional Research Service
USDHS	United States Department of Homeland Security
USDOS	United States Department of State
USD	United States dollar
WTTC	World Travel and tourism Council

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Comprised of a total of 29 countries and territories,[3] the Caribbean is an immensely diverse region of States with populations ranging from just tens of thousands of people to those with more than 10 million. Between these countries and territories are a range of income levels, development outcomes, language profiles, ethnic groups, economic structures and political systems. Despite this diversity, the region is interconnected through common historical ties, while also sharing a number of shared challenges and opportunities. Twenty-five (25) of the 29 countries and territories in the Caribbean are designated as Small Island Developing States (SIDS) – a distinct group of United Nations and Non-United Nations Members/Associate Members that face "unique social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities" (United Nations, n.d.a). These vulnerabilities include, amongst others, small sizes, remoteness, climate change impacts, biodiversity loss, dependence on external markets, high costs and narrow resource bases which together can hinder broader socioeconomic development (ibid.).

Existing research shows that the above realities, as well as colonial ties and other historic and present push- and pull-factors, have had a significant impact on shaping migration trajectories in the Caribbean (ILO, 2014; Williams et al., 2013; Cassin et al., 2022; IOM, 2020a; IOM, 2017a). Migration often serves as an important adaptation strategy for millions of people in the region while also carrying an immense potential for regional development. Migration in the Caribbean can also bring challenges, both due to the loss of specialized human capital (often known as "brain drain"), and to the obstacles that arise in assisting and ensuring access to temporary and durable solutions for diverse flows of vulnerable migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other populations moving into, within and out of the region.

In the area of migration, three key United Nations Programs of Action — the Barbados Programme of Action (1994) (United Nations, n.d.a.), the Mauritius Strategy (2005) (United Nations, n.d.b.) and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway (also known as SAMOA Pathway, 2014) (United Nations, 2019) — highlight the vulnerability of SIDS to external shocks and recognize the role of migration and migrants in the development of their communities through financial remittances, as well as the transfer of skills and knowledge. Recently, a number of Caribbean countries, alongside other countries in the Americas, signed the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration and Protection, reiterating the will to "strengthen national, regional and hemispheric efforts to create conditions for safe, orderly, humane and regular migration and to strengthen frameworks for international protection and cooperation" (The White House, 2022). Many Caribbean countries also made pledges related to advancing the implementation of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) during the International Migration Review Forum in 2022. While there is political will to address the myriad challenges that migration poses in the region and to maximize the benefits that migration and migrants can bring to origin, transit and destination societies, there is a persistent lack of information and data on migration trends or comprehensive reports that can be used to inform evidence-based policymaking and programming.

Within this context, and in line with the GCM (particularly its objectives 1, 3 and 17 on data and information), and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (particularly Objective 10.7 on orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, and Target 17.18 on disaggregation of data by characteristics including migration status), the International Organization for Migration (IOM)'s Regional Office for Central America, North America and the Caribbean in San José, Costa Rica, presents this data report in order to highlight several key historical and recent developments and trends in mobility and migration in the Caribbean region. The report focuses on official statistics published by international agencies as well as records published and maintained by governments. While the depth of migration dynamics across the entire region is far too complex to understand in a single report, this publication serves as an important starting point for technocrats, policymakers, researchers, practitioners and other actors across governments, United Nations agencies, civil society, and academia to better understand complex phenomena of migration and mobility in the Caribbean region, in combination with other national and regional resources.

3 For the purposes of this report, the Caribbean refers to all countries/territories under the UN Statistics Division (UNSD) regional grouping as well as Belize, Guyana and Suriname. See Map A for further information.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Caribbean is a region of emigration. Nearly one-fifth of the region's nationals lived outside of their countries / territories of origin as of 2020, among them a significant number of women (UNDESA, 2020, 2021a). In proportional terms, 10 of the top 20 countries of emigration in the world in 2019 (in countries where the combined population of residents and emigrants residing abroad exceeded 100,000) were located in the Caribbean (IOM, 2019b). Cuban and Haitian nationals constituted most of all refugees and asylum seekers originating from the Caribbean by the end of 2022. These two nationalities have also been the most frequently detected among Caribbean migrants travelling irregularly through key transit points in the Americas in recent years, underpinning the precarious and vulnerable journeys that Cuban and Haitian migrants often embark on to seek better lives abroad.

Return migration is a prominent trend in the Caribbean, including of individuals who were removed involuntarily by authorities in key destination and transit countries; young, economically active migrants returning voluntarily to the region to work; older retirees returning voluntarily who had originally left the Caribbean mainly in the 1950s and 60s; and family units, often returning to the region in order to afford private education and other benefits for their children (IOM, 2017a; Fraser and Uche, 2010; Reynolds, 2008). Administrative data available from key countries of destination would indicate that tens of thousands of Caribbean migrants are removed or involuntary/ voluntarily returned by the United States, Mexico, European Union, and United Kingdom each year, with returns/ removals continuing in notable quantities during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

While the Caribbean region is mainly characterized by emigration, there is also a sizable population of immigrants in the region – reaching 1.63 million as of 2020 (UNDESA, 2021a). The region's immigrant population was relatively evenly-distributed between immigrants originating from within and outside of the Caribbean. The top three destination countries/ territories in 2020 were the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, and Guadeloupe while the top three origin countries were Haiti, the United States and the Dominican Republic (ibid.). Migrants from the United States included retirees as well as second-generation children born of Caribbean parents in the United States who subsequently returned to the region. In recent years, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have been facing one of the largest exoduses of refugees and migrants in the history of the region. Through May 2023 more than 7.3 million refugees and migrants from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela resided outside of their home country, an estimated 6.1 million of whom were residing in other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNHCR and IOM, 2022b). While only a small proportion of these have arrived in the Caribbean, Venezuelan refugees and migrants constitute a measurable proportion of the total population in some Caribbean small island States, representing a challenge to reception and integration capacities.

According to the World Travel and Tourism Council, the Caribbean region is the most reliant in the world on travel and tourism (in terms of proportion of GDP) (WTTC, 2022). The sector's contribution to GDP reached 14 per cent for the region and constituted 15 per cent of all jobs in 2019 (ibid.). However, the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic led to significant reductions in travel and mobility in the Caribbean and contributed to a nine per cent decrease in GDP in 2020 compared with 2019, as well as the loss of millions of jobs (ibid.). Changes in mobility from March 2020 onward are evident in the decreases in arrivals registered at official points of entry in selected countries and territories of the region until 2021.

Aside from the fall-out generated on travel and tourism sectors, the pandemic also had a strong impact on migrants themselves, as many became stranded and were unable to return home or reach their final intended destination (IOM, 2020c; Reuters, 2021). In light of mobility restrictions, those migrants who did choose to move were often forced to embark on more dangerous or circuitous routes with added COVID-19 health risks (Collins, 2021; IOM, 2021c). Migrants living in the region faced interruptions to education, job losses, lack of access to health care and other services and rising incidents of racism and xenophobia, amongst other challenges (USAID and UNICEF, 2020; IOM, 2020d; Bolivar Duerto, 2021; UNHCR and IOM, 2021).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Remittances are by far the most important source of external financing for the Caribbean, far outnumbering foreign direct investment (FDI) and official development assistance (ODA). The region has seen an increase in absolute remittance inflows year over year since 2013 (CEMLA, 2021). Remittances represent a considerable proportion of GDP in several countries and territories and often form a fundamental support and insurance mechanism for families and communities back home. While the COVID-19 pandemic generated concerns, both regionally and globally, regarding the capacities of migrants to send remittances home, remittances to the Caribbean increased 18.2 per cent in 2020 compared with levels seen in 2019, a constant trend until 2021, in 2022 the economic recovery has caused remittances to slightly lower their participation in comparison with the other income of the GDP in the Caribbean countries or territories (ibid.).

Each year, in addition to significant effects on economies, livelihoods, habitats, food security systems, key infrastructure and other fundamental sectors, thousands of people are displaced due to the impact of rapid-onset natural hazards in the Caribbean. In per capita terms, many Caribbean SIDS are amongst the most vulnerable countries/territories in the world to disaster-related displacement in the context of rapid-onset natural hazards (Lemay, 2016.). There is also broad consensus that extreme weather events such as tropical storms, floods, droughts and other phenomena which occur in the region will likely increase in frequency and intensity in the coming decades (ibid.).

While data on sudden-onset disasters (notably, hurricanes) and their impact on human mobility in the Caribbean are more widely available, displacement and migration related to other slow-onset processes which affect the region – including sea-level rise (SLR), coastal erosion, droughts, rainfall variability, environmental degradation and more – are more difficult to capture. However, slow onset environmental drivers are expected to play an increasingly prominent role in generating migration in the region, particularly internally within countries and particularly from rural areas to cities. Each year, hundreds of deaths and disappearances are registered by IOM's Missing Migrants Project (MMP) in the Caribbean, with countless more unregistered. Since the beginning of 2016 and through June 2023, a total of 1,298 migrant deaths and disappearances were recorded by IOM MMP in the Caribbean region (IOM, n.d.a.). In the Caribbean region, some of the main routes where migrant deaths and disappearances are known to occur are along maritime routes between Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico (sometimes referred to as the "Mona passage"), Caribbean countries and territories to the United States, and from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to different locations within the region. These routes are considered particularly risky not only due to weather and environmental conditions on the high seas but also because many movements take place in non-seaworthy vessels (ibid.). It is suspected that many deaths and disappearances taking place in the Caribbean go unregistered, as many shipwrecks are never identified (a phenomenon often termed "Yola shipwrecks").

KEY BACKGROUND DATA – ALL CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES[3]

Country	GDP, total, 2022, billions (current USD)[a]	GDP per capita, 2022, thousands (current USD)[b]	Human Development Index (2021)[c]	Income Status 2021-2022[d]	Total population (2020 projections)[e]	Stock of emigrants (2020)[f]	Stock of immigrants (2020)[g]	Remittances (% GDP, 2022)[h]
Anguilla	-	-	-	-	15,002	2,505	5,715	-
Antigua and Barbuda	1.8	18,745	0.79	High	97,928	66,561	29,386	2.0
Aruba	3.1*	29,342*	-	-	106,766	21,456	53,593	-
Bahamas	12.9	31,458	0.81	High	393,248	53,793	63,583	-
Barbados	5.6	20,019	0.79	High	287,371	99,611	34,869	-
Belize	2.8	6,968	0.68	Lower middle	397,621	52,756	62,043	5.0
Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba	-	-	-	-	26,221	8,148	26,221	-
British Virgin Islands	-	-	-	-	30,237	5,355	22,164	-
Cayman Islands	6.0*	88,475*	-	-	65,720	1,908	29,242	-
Cuba	107.4*	9,478*	0.76	Upper Middle	11,326,616	1,757,300	3,024	-
Curaçao	2.7*	17,717*	-	-	164,100	7,611	57,210	-
Dominica	0.6	8,415	0.72	Upper Middle	71,991	78,191	8,284	8.5
Dominican Republic	113.6	10,121	0.77	Upper Middle	10,847,904	1,608,567	603,794	9.0
Grenada	1.3	10,016	0.80	Upper Middle	112 519	62,204	7,213	5.5
Guadeloupe	-	-	-	-	400,127	12,542	90,206	-
Guyana	15.4	18,990	0.71	Upper Middle	786,559	438,413	31,169	2.6
Haití	20.3	1,748	0.54	Lower Middle	11,402,533	1,769,671	18,884	22.4
Jamaica	17.1	6,047	0.71	Upper Middle	2,961,161	1,118,931	23,629	21.6
Martinique	-	-	-	-	375,265	12,963	68,624	-
Montserrat	-	-	-	-	4,999	24,582	1,379	-
Puerto Rico	113.4	35,209	-	-	2,860,840	1,850,529	247,132	-
Saint Barthélemy	-	-	-	-	9,885	-	-	-
Saint Kitts and Nevis	1.0	20,177	0.78	High	53,192	50,285	7,725	3.4
Saint Lucia	2.1	11,481	0.72	Upper Middle	183,629	71,227	8,338	2.7
Saint Martin (French part)	-	-	-	-	38,659	-	-	-
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.9	9,125	0.738*	Upper Middle	110,947	55,525	4,738	7.3
Sint Maarten (Dutch part)	1.6	36,220	-	-	42,882	2,191	-	-
Suriname	3.6	5,858	0.73	Upper Middle	586,634	273,209	47,801	4.1
Trinidad and Tobago	27.9	18,222	0.81	High	1,399,491	330,519	78,849	0.6
Turks and Caicos Islands	1.1	24,918	-	-	38,718	2,689	-	-
United States Virgin Islands	4.2*	39,552*	-	-	104,423	3,908	-	-
				TOTAL STOCK OF EMIGRANTS FROM THE REGION			9,843,150	
				TOTAL STOCK OF IMMIGRANTS IN THE REGION			1,634,815	

[3] Sources: a World Bank, "GDP (current US$)", n.d. [04 Jan. 2022], *when 2022 is not available, most recent data is used (2020 or 2021); b World Bank, "GDP per capita (current US$)", n.d. [04 Jan 2022] *when 2022 is not available, most recent data is used (2020 or 2021); c United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), *Human Development Report 2020, 2020;* d World Bank, "Country and Lending Groups", n.d. [04 Jan. 2022]; e United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), World Population Prospects Revision 2019 – Total Population – Both Sexes, 2019; f UNDESA, "International Migrant Stock 2020: Destination and origin: Table 1", 2021; g World Bank, "Personal remittances, received (% of GDP)", n.d. [04 Jan 2022]. Note: The spaces with a dash ("-") indicate that no data were available.

1. OVERVIEW

1.1 MIGRATION TRENDS IN THE CARIBBEAN

Comprised of a total of 29 countries and territories[2], the Caribbean is an immensely diverse region comprised of states with populations ranging from just tens of thousands of people to those with more than 10 million. Between these countries and territories are a range of income levels, development outcomes, language profiles[4], ethnic groups, economic structures and political systems. Despite this diversity, the region is interconnected through common historical ties, while also sharing several shared challenges and opportunities.

Twenty-five (25) of the 29 countries and territories in the Caribbean are designated as Small Island Developing States (SIDS) – a distinct group of United Nations (UN) and Non-UN Members/Associate Members that face "unique social, economic and environmental vulnerabilities" (UN, n.d.a). These vulnerabilities include, amongst others, small sizes, remoteness, climate change impacts, biodiversity loss, dependence on external markets, high costs and narrow resource bases which together can hinder broader socioeconomic development (Ibid).

Existing research shows that the above realities, as well as colonial ties and other historic and present push- and pull-factors have had a significant impact in shaping migration trajectories into, within and out of the region (ILO, 2014; Williams, 2013; Cassin et al., 2022; IOM, 2020; IOM, 2017). Migration poses as an important adaptation strategy to deal with the above-mentioned challenges for millions of people in the region while also serving as a potential tool for development, both by way of migrant remittances sent to families and communities back home, and by way of social remittances and the transfer of new knowledge, technology and skills. Migration in the Caribbean can also bring challenges, both due to the loss of specialized human capital (often known as "brain drain") as many Caribbean workers seek better opportunities abroad, but also in the assistance and integration of diverse flows of vulnerable migrants migrating both within the region and from countries outside of the region.

The Caribbean is a region of emigrants. Many countries in the region – including Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Jamaica – had more than 1.1 million and even up to 1.7 million nationals living abroad as 2020 (UNDESA, 2021).

With an estimated 9.84 million Caribbean migrants living abroad in 2020, the majority of which (8.94 million) resided outside of the region[5], migration connects Caribbean countries, communities as well as migrants and their families through strong and lasting transnational ties.

Recently, migration has risen on the agenda of many countries confronting disaster and displacement caused by recurring and perhaps intensifying natural hazards, particularly hurricanes. In addition to sudden-onset disasters, many Caribbean countries are increasingly susceptible to slow onset climate and environmental change, which is expected to play an increasingly prominent role as a driver of migration in the region, particularly internally within countries from rural areas to cities, but also across international borders[6].

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to generate a tremendous impact on mobility in Caribbean countries as of 2022, reducing regional cross-border movement and international tourist arrivals and jeopardizing tourist revenues and economic livelihoods. [7]As one of the regions of origin most dependent on remittances, the pandemic's impacts have also generated concerns over Caribbean migrants' capacities to send money to families in countries of origin[8]. However, data through the end of 2020 show that remittances to the region have remained relatively resilient.[9]

[4] Mainly, Spanish, French, English, Dutch, Haitian Creole and Papiament (a Spanish and Portuguese-based creole language spoken in the Dutch Caribbean, mainly Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao).

[5] Data derived from UNDESA, *International migrant stock* 2019, and refer to all migrants originating from Caribbean countries and overseas territories as classified by UNDESA (including Puerto Rico), as well as Guyana and Suriname (classified as South America) and Belize (classified as Central America).

[6] Caribbean Migration Consultations, *Migration Governance: An Adaptation Strategy for Environmental Change*, n.d. (IOM, San José) [3 Feb. 2021].

[7] Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), *The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the tourism sector in Latin America and the Caribbean, and options for a sustainable and resilient recover,* 2020.

[8] World Bank, *COVID-19 crisis through a migration lens,* 2020.

[9] United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), "Stand by me: COVID-19 and the resilience of remittances flows to LAC", 2 December 2020 [3 Feb. 2021].

1. OVERVIEW

Intraregional migration in the Caribbean, a foundational provision for broader regional integration across both Caribbean Community (CARICOM)[10] and Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)[11] Member States, is also a notable trend and is playing an increasing role in the region's economic and social development[12].

Data also show that Cuban and Haitian migrants continue to leave their countries of origin, whether for family reunification, in search of work, in need of international protection or for other reasons. The arrival of Venezuelan refugees and migrants to the region in recent years has also added to complex migration dynamics and has had a strong impact particularly (although not exclusively) on many small islands, states and territories[13]. Many of these vulnerable migrants embark on dangerous and potentially life-threatening journeys in order to reach countries of destination, and many have lost their lives while in transit through maritime and land routes[14].

Finally, although data are limited, return migration – both voluntary and forced – of Caribbean migrants is a prominent trend, bringing with them a wide variety of resources, skills, experiences and knowledge with the potential to benefit local economic development, while highlighting the importance of developing innovative policy responses in countries and territories of origin in order to maximize return and reintegration and foster entrepreneurship and innovation amongst returnee populations.

1.2 SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE REPORT

The importance of having accessible, disaggregated, reliable, timely, public, free and high-quality data is well recognized and highlighted in various international frameworks.

- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
  - Target 17.18 "… increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, *migratory status*…"

- Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM)
  - Objective 1 Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies.
  - Objective 3 Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration.
  - Objective 17 Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration.

As coordinator and secretariat of the United Nations Network on Migration, IOM is in a unique position to contribute to the achievement of regional objectives with regard to improving the collection, management and dissemination of migration data. For this reason, IOM has also established its own institutional migration data strategy. This report responds in particular to the Objective 1 of this strategy.

- IOM Migration Data Strategy
  - Objective 1 Strengthen the global evidence base on migration;
  - Objective 2 Develop capacity of States and other relevant partners to enhance the national, regional and global migration evidence base;
  - Objective 3 Ensure more evidence-based IOM- and United Nations system-wide programming, operations, policy advice and communications.

[10] CARICOM is made up of 15 Member States and five Associate Members and was founded in 1973. More information available here.
[11] OECD is made up of seven Protocol Member States and four Associate Members and was founded in 1981. More information available here.
[12] IOM, *Free movement in the Caribbean: Economic and security dimensions,* 2019.
[13] *Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V), Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan – January – December 2021, 2020.*
[14] IOM, *Missing Migrants Project – Americas,* n.d. [3 Feb. 2021].

• Regional Strategy for Central America, North America and the Caribbean – The information available in the Report also responds to the IOM Vision established for the region for the period of 2020-2024:

Pillar C
Governance – "Serving as a trusted and effective leader and partner in relevant bilateral, regional and global initiatives and processes"

iv "Enhance the capacity of governments to collect, analyse and use migration and internal displacement data for evidence-based policymaking."

Despite the importance of migration in the Caribbean region, there exist very few resources which highlight migration trends in the region, and even fewer that are focused on data. Data are a critical element of evidence-based policy making.

Within this context, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Regional Office for Central America, North America and the Caribbean in San José, Costa Rica, presents this brief in order to highlight several key historical and recent developments and trends in mobility and migration in the Caribbean region, focusing on official statistics published by international agencies as well as records published and maintained by governments.

1.3 GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Map 1.1: Countries and territories which make up the Caribbean region in this report.

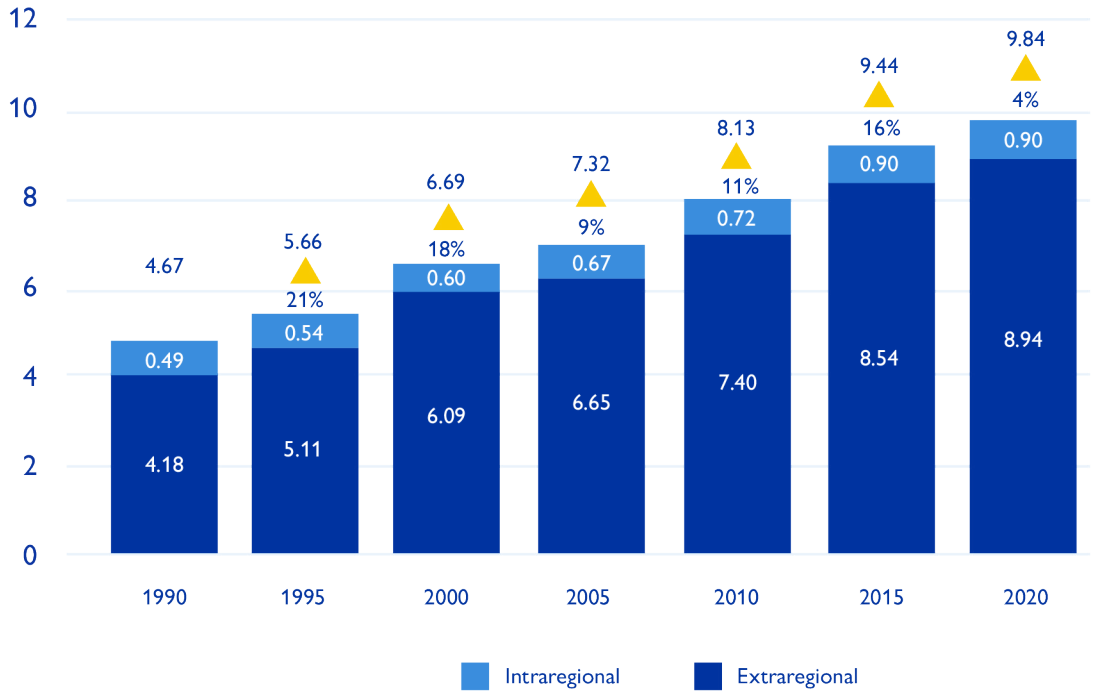
Note: This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown, and designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

2. CARIBBEAN EMIGRATION - STOCKS

This section provides key data on emigration from the region, mainly sourced from estimates of the number (or "stock") of international migrants generated by UNDESA, with information disaggregated by sex and country of origin/destination when possible. This section also highlights key changes in Caribbean emigration over time. For additional information on how UNDESA generates its estimates on the international migrant stock, see the 2020 Methodological Note (UNDESA, 2021b).

2.1 REGIONAL EMIGRANT STOCKS

Figure 1: Stock of Caribbean nationals living abroad, and percentage (%) change between reference years, 1990 – 2020 (millions)[15]



91% of Caribbean migrants resided **outside of the region** in 2020

9% of Caribbean migrants resided in another country / territory **within the region** in 2020

Source: Own calculations; based on United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), Table 1: International migrant stock at mid-year by sex and by region, country or area of destination and origin, 1990-2020, 2021 [05 May 2022].

- The stock of Caribbean emigrants more than doubled in three decades between 1990 and 2020, by approximately 5.17 million. The size of the emigrant population grew on average by 13 per cent every five years in this 30-year period.
- While it appears that net emigration rates have decreased in recent years, the Caribbean nevertheless remains an area of significant net emigration. The lion's share of Caribbean emigration is extrarregional. While the absolute number of intraregional migrants continues to grow, intraregional migrants as a proportion of all Caribbean emigrants have remained relatively constant during the past three decades, hovering between 8.8 and 10.5 per cent. Of the stock of 900,462 intraregional Caribbean emigrants as of 2020, 63 per cent (567,956) were Haitians.

[15] Totals include migrants originating from all countries and territories signaled in section 1.3 / map 1.1.

2. CARIBBEAN EMIGRATION - STOCKS

2.2 BREAKDOWN OF EMIGRANTS

Table 1: Top 10 origin countries / territories of Caribbean nationals residing abroad in absolute terms, and percentage (%) increase between 1990 and 2020

		Emigrant stock		
	Country / Territory	1990	2020	% Increase
1	Puerto Rico*	1,200,245	1,850,529	54%
2	Haiti	524,711	1,769,671	237%
3	Cuba	835,175	1,757,300	110%
4	Dominican Republic	458,021	1,608,567	251%
5	Jamaica	588,450	1,118,931	90%
6	Guyana	233,318	438,413	88%
7	Suriname	177,857	330,519	86%
8	Barbados	84,766	273,209	222%
9	Dominica	40,563	99,611	146%
10	Saint Lucia	21,999	78,191	255%

Source: Own calculations; based on United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), Table 1: International migrant stock at mid-year by sex and by region, country or area of destination and origin, 1990-2020, 2021 [05 May 2022].

Note: migrants originating from Puerto Rico are United States citizens and thus may not be considered immigrants by certain entities in the United States and elsewhere. However, for statistical purposes, Puerto Ricans born in Puerto Rico who move to the 50 states of the United States are considered migrants by UNDESA. The * symbol indicates a dependent area or overseas territory.

- Migrants from the top five origin countries / territories in the region - Puerto Rico, Haiti, Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Jamaica - represented 82 per cent (8,104,9998) of the total stock of emigrants from the region in 2020. The top 10 countries above amounted to 94 per cent (9,284,927) of the regions' total number of emigrants in 2020.

While the size of the emigrant population grew significantly across all of the above countries and territories in the specified 30-year period, these outflows tended to occur at different times, and are linked to different trends occurring both during this timeframe and prior to 1990:

Puerto Rico: The rate of emigration from Puerto Rico showed a decline through the 1990s and early 2000s before registering a marked increase beginning in 2010 onward (UNDESA, 2021).

Top 3 destinations and percentage (%) of total emigrant stock as of 2020:

- **United States (mainland)**[16]: 1,829,251 (98.9%)
- **Dominican Republic:** 4,780 (<1%)
- **Guam:**[17] 4,176 (<1%)

Although emigration from Puerto Rico to the continental United States took place long before World War II, the largest waves occurred after the war ended from 1945 onward (Lehman College, n.d.). Immigration to the mainland United States was at its peak in the 1950s (in a period often termed "the Great Migration") both due to the precarious economic situation on the island as well as active recruitment of workers from Puerto Rico (Library of Congress, n.d.).

[16] A change of usual residence to reside in one of the 50 states of the United States would be considered internal migration.
[17] A change of usual residence to reside in Guam would be considered internal migration, given that Guam is also an overseas dependent territory of the United States.

2. CARIBBEAN EMIGRATION - STOCKS

Migration to the continental United States decreased slightly after the 1950s but remained steady through the next few decades as the Puerto Rican economy obtained relative stability. However, particularly from 2006 onward, renewed economic woes led to large outfluxes at levels not seen since the 1950s (Cohn et al., 2014). The population of the island peaked in 2004 and has declined since, mainly due to emigration as well as low birthrates (Ibid). The socioeconomic impacts of Hurricane Maria, a category 4 storm which struck the island in September 2017, added to the difficulties stemming from the territory's decade-long financial crisis and has since generated further migrant outflows (United States Census Bureau, 2019).

Haiti: Rates of Haitian emigration remained sustained during the entire 30-year period, reaching their highest levels after 2010. On average, the emigrant population from Haiti increased by 22 per cent every five years between 1990 and 2020, peaking at an increase of 31 per cent between 2010 and 2015 (UNDESA, 2021).

Top 3 destinations and percentage (%) of total emigrant stock as of 2020:

- **United States:** 705,361 (39.9%)
- **Dominican Republic:** 496,112 (28.0%)
- **Chile:** 236,912 (13.4%)

The main drivers of Haitian emigration have included the collapse of a three-decade long dictatorship in 1986 (which led to a political and economic crisis) as well as sustained endemic poverty and political instability through the 1990s and early 2000s (Olsen-Medina and Batalova, 2020). The large exodus of Haitian migrants witnessed after 2010 is mainly attributed to displacement and the socioeconomic fall-out resulting from the country's devastating 2010 earthquake (Ibid). Continued insecurity and economic and political turmoil, as well as Hurricane Matthew in 2016, have also served as further drivers (Yates, 2021).

Cuba: The rate of emigration from Cuba remained virtually constant during the three decades spanning 1990-2020. On average, the size of the emigrant population increased by 13 per cent every five years. The highest growth rates in this period were seen between 2015 and 2020, when the emigrant population increased by 17 per cent (UNDESA, 2021).

Top 3 destinations and percentage (%) of total emigrant stock as of 2020:

- **United States:** 1,376,211 (78.3%)
- **Spain:** 162,368 (9.2%)
- **Italy:** 38,532 (2.2%)

Large-scale emigration from Cuba in modern times was spurred by the Cuban Revolution of 1959 and the resulting political and economic challenges in the country (Duany, 2017). On the destination side, policy mechanisms in the United States facilitated entry of Cuban refugees and migrants, particularly from 1966 onward with the signing of the Cuban Adjustment Act, which allowed Cuban citizens living in the United States for at least one year to apply to be lawful permanent residents (Nodarse Venancio and Oliver, 2022). From the mid-1990s the "wet-food, dry-foot" policy in the United States (under which Cubans arriving to United States land border points without a visa would be admitted to the country) continued to serve as a pull factor (Blizzard and Batalova, 2020). Despite the end of "wet-food, dry-foot" in 2017, Cuban emigration has continued in recent years in the midst of deteriorating standards of living and social unrest, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic (Nodarse Venancio and Oliver, 2022; Sherwood and Acosta, 2022). Emigration to Spain has long been a common trend amongst Cuban migrants in light of common colonial, historic and linguistic ties – many Cuban migrants in Spain can claim Spanish ancestry (Sosa and Perez-Diaz, 2018).

2. CARIBBEAN EMIGRATION - STOCKS

Dominican Republic: Emigration from the Dominican Republic has slowed in recent decades but still remains high. The largest outflows from the Dominican Republic in the aforementioned 30-year period occurred between 1990 and 2000, when the emigrant population grew by 94 per cent. After 2000 and through 2020, the size of the Dominican emigrant population grew at an average of 16 per cent every five years. The period spanning 2015-2020 saw the slowest rate of growth within the three-decade period, at 11 per cent (UNDESA, 2021).

Top 3 destinations and % of total emigrant stock as of 2020:

- **United States:** 1,376,211 (85.6%)
- **Spain:** 162,368 (10.1%)
- **Italy:** 38,532 (2.4%)

The large emigration rates from the Dominican Republic in the nineties came on the tail-end of three decades of significant outflows (mainly toward the United States) of Dominicans fleeing violence and political crises since the 1960s as well as the effects of the Latin American economic and debt crisis of the 1980s (Babich and Batalova, 2021b). Many Dominican nationals now emigrate through family reunification ties, particularly to the United States and Spain (Ibid).

Jamaica: The stock of Jamaican nationals living abroad increased by 46 per cent between 1990 and 2000. The rate of emigration decreased markedly after 2000, on average by seven per cent every five years through 2020 (UNDESA, 2021).

Top 3 destinations and % of total emigrant stock as of 2020:

- **United States:** 792,370 (70.8%)
- **Canada:** 148,982 (13.3%)
- **United Kingdom:** 128,772 (11.5%)

Emigration from Jamaica occurred with increasing momentum by the mid-twentieth century as the United States and the United Kingdom recruited large numbers of Jamaican workers during and after World War II (IOM, 2018; Zong and Batalova, 2019). In the 1960s, various policy changes led to a shift in the direction of flows away from Western Europe and mainly toward the United States and in smaller part to Canada (IOM, 2018). High levels of emigration of Jamaicans to Northern America, including of highly skilled workers, continued into the 1970s. While persistent economic woes tied in particular to declines in the agricultural sector (among other factors) would lead to sustained emigration in the 1980s and 90s, rates of emigration began to decline during this period and continued to do so into the 2000s (Ibid).

Guyana: In the period spanning 1990 – 2020, the largest rates of emigration from Guyana took place between 1990 and 2000, when the size of the emigrant population increased by 55 per cent. However, the growth rate of the emigrant population decreased significantly between 2000 and 2015, and between 2015 and 2020 the size of the emigrant population actually shrunk by nine per cent, from 481,000 in 2015 to 438,000 in 2020, in light of return migration.

Top three destinations and percentage (%) of total emigrant stock as of 2020:

- **United States:** 241,573 (55%)
- **Canada:** 94,421 (22%)
- **United Kingdom:** 28,074 (6%)

2. CARIBBEAN EMIGRATION - STOCKS

Sustained outflows of Guyanese migrants have occurred since its independence from the United Kingdom in 1966, particularly in the 1970s (Center for Strategic and International Studies, 2020). Many of those migrating in the decades after independence possessed tertiary-level education or had at least completed secondary education, leaving the country in the backdrop of a persistent lack of economic opportunities as well as ethnic and political tensions, and facilitated by favorable immigration laws particularly for skilled workers in key destination countries, like the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States (ibid.). As the size of the Guyanese diaspora grew significantly in recent decades, family reunification has also become an important channel of emigration (ibid.).

• **Trinidad and Tobago:** Between 1990-2020, the largest growth in the emigrant population occurred in the 1990s at an average of 25 per cent every five years. However, from 2000 onward the growth in the emigrant population slowed significantly, and, between 2015 and 2020, the overall emigrant population decreased by approximately 38,000 from 369,000 to 331,000.

Top three destinations and percentage (%) of total emigrant stock as of 2020

- United States: 208,075 (63%)
- Canada: 70,035 (21%)
- United Kingdom: 29,508 (9%)

Recent emigration from Trinidad and Tobago has mainly been of highly-skilled workers, including nurses and other professionals migrating to the United States and Canada (IOM, n.d.). Otherwise, Trinidad and Tobago is one of the most prosperous islands in the Caribbean and has significant natural gas resources, an expanding tourist industry, foreign direct investment and agriculture, serving as a key destination of Caribbean migrants in recent years (Ibid.). This prosperity in part has led to a decrease in emigration from the island.

• **Suriname:** Between 1990-2020, the largest growth in the emigrant population occurred between 2005 and 2010 (increasing by 18%). However, from 2010 onwards the growth in the emigrant population slowed, with the total stock increasing by a more modest six per cent between 2010 and 2020.

Top three destinations and percentage (%) of total emigrant stock as of 2020:

- Netherlands: 182,922 (67%)
- France: 27,892 (10%)
- French Guiana: 26,064 (10%)

From 1945 through the 1960s emigration from Suriname was dominated by high- and middle-income students going to the Netherlands to study and settle to work (IOM, 2015). In the 1950s, Dutch industrial and shipping firms as well as hospitals and care institutions began recruiting Surinamese workers (both male and female) to fill critical labour market gaps in the Netherlands (ibid.). Migration from the mid-1960s onward shifted to include a far higher number of women (whereas prior outflows were predominated by adult males) as more nurses were recruited from the country and as family reunification became a growing trend (ibid.). The highest rates of emigration from the county began in the 1970s onward, mainly due to weak economic prospects in Suriname and ethnic and political strife. Outflows peaked in 1975, mainly toward the Netherlands, in the same year that the country gained independence (ibid.). Favorable visa policies in the Netherlands in the immediate years following and political turmoil in the wake of independence would driver further sustained outflows through the 1990s (ibid.). Throughout this period, certain ethnic groups in Suriname – in particular Surinamese Maroons – have migrated to French Guiana and continue to do so to this day (ibid.).

• **Barbados:** The emigrant population from Barbados grew modestly on average by six per cent every five years between 1990 and 2000. However, since 2000 the size of the emigrant population has remained static growing on an average of just one per cent every five years through 2020. Between 2015 and 2020 the size of the emigrant population decreased by approximately 2,300, from 101,900 to 99,600.

Top three destinations and percentage (%) of total emigrant stock as of 2020

- United States: 51,738 (52%)
- United Kingdom: 26,622 (27%)
- Canada: 15,177 (19%)

The bulk of emigration from Barbados occurred earlier in the 20th century. In the early 1900s many Barbadian workers went to work on the Panama Canal (Barrow, 2010). Later, many Barbadians migrated in search of better labour opportunities in the United Kingdom from the 1940s through the 1960s. However, upon the introduction of more restrictive immigration policies in the 1960s in the United Kingdom, combined with the liberalization of immigration policies in the United States / growing economic opportunities in both the United States and Canada, outflows shifted largely toward Northern America (ibid.). After independence in 1966, the country's economy transformed from being primarily agrarian to a more diverse service-based economy with strong earnings from tourism, manufacturing and the financial sector (Callaghan, 2018). With the exception of a strong recession in the early 1990s, the improved economic performance and living conditions in the country have reduced pressures to emigrate, particularly after the 1990s.

• **Dominica:** Between 1990 and 2000 the emigrant stock from Dominica increased by 19 per cent. The highest rates of growth in the emigrant population took place between 2000 and 2005 (+33%) and 2005 and 2010 (+15%). However, since then the rate of growth has slowed significantly, with the size of the emigrant population increasing by six per cent between 2010 and 2020.

Top three destinations and percentage (%) of total emigrant stock as of 2020

- United States: 32,379 (41%)
- United Kingdom: 8,625 (11%)
- France: 7,368 (9%)

Emigration from Dominica has been primarily economic in nature, to surrounding Caribbean islands, the United States and Europe. The country is highly volcanic and has very few beaches, meaning that tourism to the island developed slower than other Caribbean islands (US Department of State, 2018a). Dominica has experienced challenges diversifying its economy and still relies heavily on agriculture, which can be vulnerable to external global commodity price shocks (in the case of bananas, for example), as well as weather (ibid.). The island has struggled to recover from numerous devastating Hurricanes (for example Hurricane Dean in 2007 and Hurricane Maria in 2017) which have spurred further economic difficulties, displacement and international migration.

While Figure 1 and Table 1 have highlighted trends in Caribbean emigration in absolute terms, calculating emigration from the region in proportional terms (that is, the percentage of each country / territory's nationals living abroad) portrays a more nuanced reality of emigration in the region. In fact, based on 2019 figures, IOM estimated that:

• In proportional terms, ten of the top 20 countries of emigration in the world in 2019 (In countries where the combined population of residents and emigrants residing abroad exceeded 100,000) were located in the Caribbean, including Saint Kitts and Nevis, Dominica and Suriname (which filled the top three spots, respectively), Grenada (5th), Guyana (6th), Antigua and Barbuda (8th), Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (9th), Barbados (13th), Jamaica (14th) and Saint Lucia (16th) (). IOM, 2020.

2. CARIBBEAN EMIGRATION - STOCKS

Figure 2: Percentage (%) of nationals living abroad, by region (overall) and by individual Caribbean UN Member Countries, 2020.

18% of all Caribbean nationals (from all countries and territories) were estimated to live abroad as of 2020

Dominica **52%**	Barbados **26%**	Guyana **36%**
Grenade **36%**	Dominican Republic **13%**	Saint Lucia **28%**
Jamaica **27%**	Antigua and Barbuda **40%**	Haiti **13%**
Cuba **13%**	Suriname **32%**	Belize **12%**
Saint Kitts and Nevis **49%**	Trinidad and Tobago **19%**	
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines **33%**	Bahamas **12%**	

Source: Own calculations, based on data from: UNDESA, World Population Prospects 2019: 1-1 Total population (both sexes combined) by region, subregion and country, annually for 1950-2100 (thousands), n.d. [01 May. 2022]; Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), Table 1: International migrant stock at mid-year by sex and by region, country or area of destination and origin, 1990-2020, 2021 [05 May 2022].

A review of Figure 2 above reveals that various countries that did not appear among the top 10 origin countries of migrants in the Caribbean in absolute terms featured prominently in the list of top 10 origin countries in proportional terms, mainly: Saint Kitts and Nevis (ranked 2nd amongst UN Member Countries in the region), Antigua and Barbuda (third), Grenada (fifth) and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (sixth):

- Nearly one-fifth of the region's nationals were estimated to be living outside of their countries / territories of origin as of 2020, reflecting immense degrees of emigration in proportional terms.
- 7 of the 16 UN Member Countries in the Caribbean had one-third or higher of their population residing abroad as of 2020, and the proportion of nationals living abroad did not fall below one-tenth in any UN Member Country.
- Most emigrants from Saint Kitts and Nevis migrate to the United States – the destination of 27,765, or 55.2 per cent of the total 50,285 emigrants from the country living abroad as of 2020. The United Kingdom is the second-most destination of migrants from Saint Kitts and Nevis (7,998, or 16%) followed by the United States Virgin Islands (7,103, or 14%).
- Emigration trends from Antigua and Barbuda are like Saint Kitts and Nevis, with the United States serving as the main country of destination (46,037, or 69% of the total 66,561)

Below are some observations for specific countries included in Figure 2 above that did not appear in the top 10 countries of origin (in absolute terms) featured in Table 2:

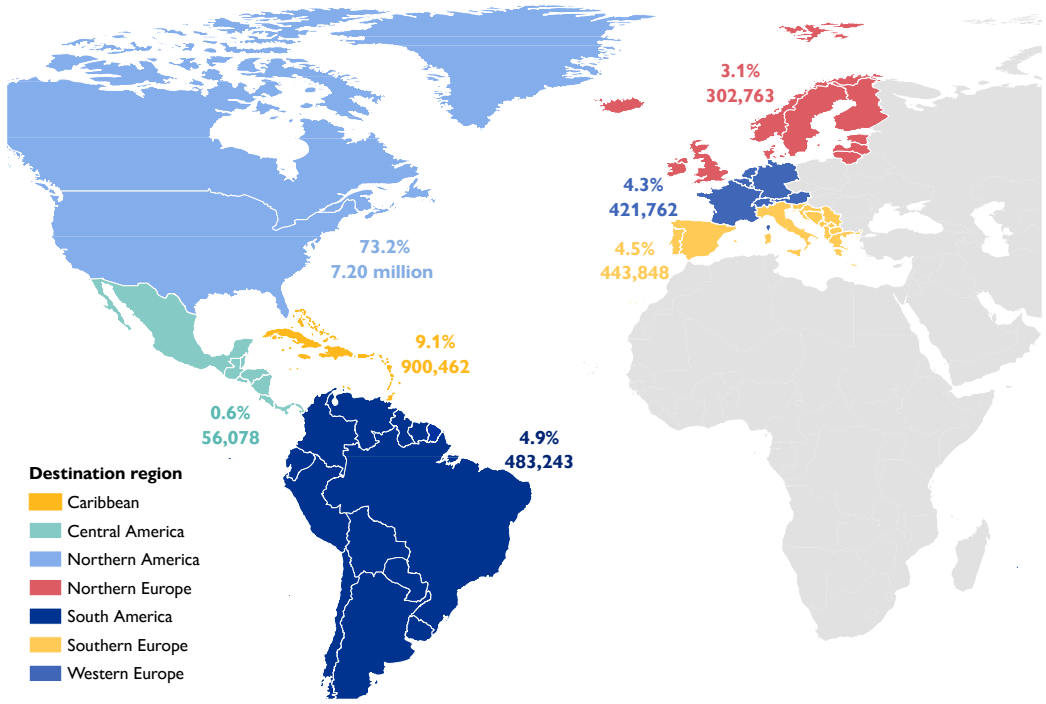
- For each country in Figure 2 that did not fall within the top 10 countries of origin in absolute terms (Table 2 – specifically, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Bahamas and Belize – the top three countries of destination were the United States and its territories, the United Kingdom and Canada.

2. CARIBBEAN EMIGRATION - STOCKS

- Fifty-five per cent (55%) of the 27,765 migrants from Saint Kitts and Nevis in 2020 lived in the United States, followed by 29 per cent in the United States Virgin Islands.
- Nearly 70 per cent of the total 46,037 migrants from Antigua and Barbuda were residing in the United States as of 2020.
- Of the 62,204 total migrants from Grenada around the world in 2020, 41 per cent were living in the United States, 20 per cent in the United Kingdom and 18 per cent in Canada.
- Over 27 per cent of the 55,525 migrants from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines as of 2020 were living in the United States, followed by Canada (25%) and the United Kingdom (17%).
- Nearly nine in ten (87%) of the 53,793 migrants from the Bahamas in 2020 were living in the United States.
- For Belize, 81 per cent or the total 52,756 migrants globally were estimated to be living in the United States as of 2020.

Similar trends of significant proportions of all nationals can be seen amongst Caribbean overseas dependent territories. Aside from Puerto Rico (previously discussed) this include Montserrat, Bonaire, Aruba, the British Virgin Islands and Anguilla:

Figure 3: Top destination regions of Caribbean migrants, 2020[18]



Source: Own calculations; based on UNDESA, Table 1: International migrant stock at mid-year by sex and by region, country or area of destination and origin, 1990-2020, 2020 [21 Jul. 2023].

Note: This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown, and designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

[18] Analysis includes nationals originating from all sovereign countries, overseas territories and dependent areas included under UNDESA classifications for the Caribbean, as well as Belize, Guyana and Suriname. This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown, and designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM. Regions are based on UNDESA classifications with the exception of Guyana, Suriname and Belize, which have been included under the Caribbean for the purposes of the present analysis.

2. CARIBBEAN EMIGRATION - STOCKS

The vast majority of Caribbean emigrants are concentrated in just seven global regions. As of 2019, 99.3 per cent of Caribbean emigrants were residing in Northern America, elsewhere in the Caribbean, Western Europe, Southern Europe, Northern Europe, South America and Central America[19], corridors which, aside from intraregional migration, largely reflect post-colonial ties as well as the geographic proximity and growing popularity of the United States and Canada as principal destinations within the last 40 – 50 years.

Figure 4: Sex composition of Caribbean nationals residing abroad, 2020[20]

BY SELECTED COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

Haiti	54%	46%	Guyana	46%	54%	Grenada	44%	56%	Bahamas	42%	58%
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	48%	52%	Antigua and Barbuda	46%	54%	St. Lucia	43%	57%	Belize	42%	58%
Cuba	46%	54%	Suriname	45%	55%	Jamaica	43%	57%	Dominican Republic	41%	59%
Barbados	46%	54%	Saint Kitts and Nevis	44%	56%	Dominica	42%	58%	Trinidad and Tobago	41%	59%

Source: Own calculations; based on UNDESA, Table 1: Total migrant stock at mid-year by origin and major area, region or country of destination, 1990-2019, 2019 [01 Dec. 2020].

Global data from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) indicate that 48 per cent of migrants globally are women. This proportion is higher for the Caribbean region, where 53.2 per cent of all nationals living abroad were women as of 2020. This proportion has grown slightly over time, given that in 1990 women migrants constituted 52 per cent of all Caribbean nationals living abroad. Data above indicate that there is measurable variation between countries. However, amongst sovereign Caribbean countries, only Haiti possesses an emigrant population that is majority male. The feminization of Caribbean emigration in recent decades has been driven by large demand for highly-skilled female health and education workers in key destination countries, gendered labour market segmentation and wage gaps in origin countries, increased female labour force participation and changes in social norms regarding women's work outside of the home and women's mobility, amongst other factors.[21]

[19] UNDESA regions are grouped based on seven Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) regions and 22 geographic subregions as defined by the United Nations Statistics Division and used for the Sustainable Development Goals Report and do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM. For more information consult UNDESA's *International Migrant Stock 2019: Documentation.*

[20] Overall proportions by gender for the region include migrants originating from Guyana, Suriname and Belize, as well as all Caribbean areas, territories and countries included under *UNDESA classifications*: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Bonaire, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Curaçao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, Montserrat, Puerto Rico, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sint Maarten (Dutch), Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands.

[21] IOM, *"Empowering Caribbean women through migration"*, On the Move, n.d. [20 Jan. 2020]; ECLAC, *Women's empowerment and migration in the Caribbean,* 2017. ECLAC (Port of Spain); IOM, *Migration in the Caribbean: Current trends, opportunities and challenges,* 2017 (San Jose).

2. CARIBBEAN EMIGRATION - STOCKS

Table 2: Top 10 destination countries, territories or areas of Caribbean migrants, total and by gender, 2020[22]

Country / Territory	Total Stock	Male		Female		Dominant origin countries/territories
United States of America	6,687,356	3,078,411	(46%)	3,608,945	(54%)	Puerto Rico, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Haiti
Canada	512,936	225,611	(44%)	287,325	(56%)	Jamaica, Haiti, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago
Dominican Republic	505,372	329,095	(65%)	176,277	(35%)	Haiti
Spain	351,647	147,818	(42%)	203,829	(58%)	Dominican Republic, Cuba
Chile	297,326	177,691	(60%)	119,635	(40%)	Haiti, Dominican Republic
United Kingdom	291,264	117,576	(40%)	173,688	(60%)	Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Barbados
Netherlands	207,302	91,221	(44%)	116,081	(56%)	Suriname
France	142,082	55,077	(39%)	87,005	(61%)	Haiti, Suriname
Italy	88,618	25,234	(28%)	63,384	(72%)	Dominican Republic, Cuba
Puerto Rico	60,554	28,132	(46%)	32,422	(54%)	Dominican Republic, Cuba

[23] Source: Own calculations; based on UNDESA, Table 1: Total migrant stock at mid-year by origin and major area, region or country of destination, 1990-2019, 2019 [01 Dec. 2020].

The U.S. stands out as the principal destination country of Caribbean emigrants. Overall, 67 per cent (two-thirds) of all Caribbean nationals residing outside of their country / territory / area of origin were located in the U.S in 2020. The number of Caribbean migrants residing in the United States is over 13 times greater than the number of Caribbean migrants residing in Canada (the second-most principal destination country). Between 1990 and 2020, the number of Caribbean migrants residing in the U.S. increased by 110 per cent, from 3.24 million to 6.81 million. The top five countries / territories of origin of Caribbean migrants in the U.S. in 2020 were: Puerto Rico (1.83 million); Cuba (1.34 million); the Dominican Republic (1.17 million); Jamaica (759,172); and Haiti (737,058). The Dominican Republic stands out as the only Caribbean country within the top 10 destination countries.

MIGRANT FLOWS

• While there are no comprehensive and / or reliable data on outflows of migrants from Caribbean origin countries / territories / states, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) maintains annual data on inflows of foreign population by nationality to its Member countries as part of its International Migration Database, thus allowing some ability for flow trends analysis over time. Data are based on proxies generated from administrative records including population registers and residence permit data, as well as population survey data in some countries.

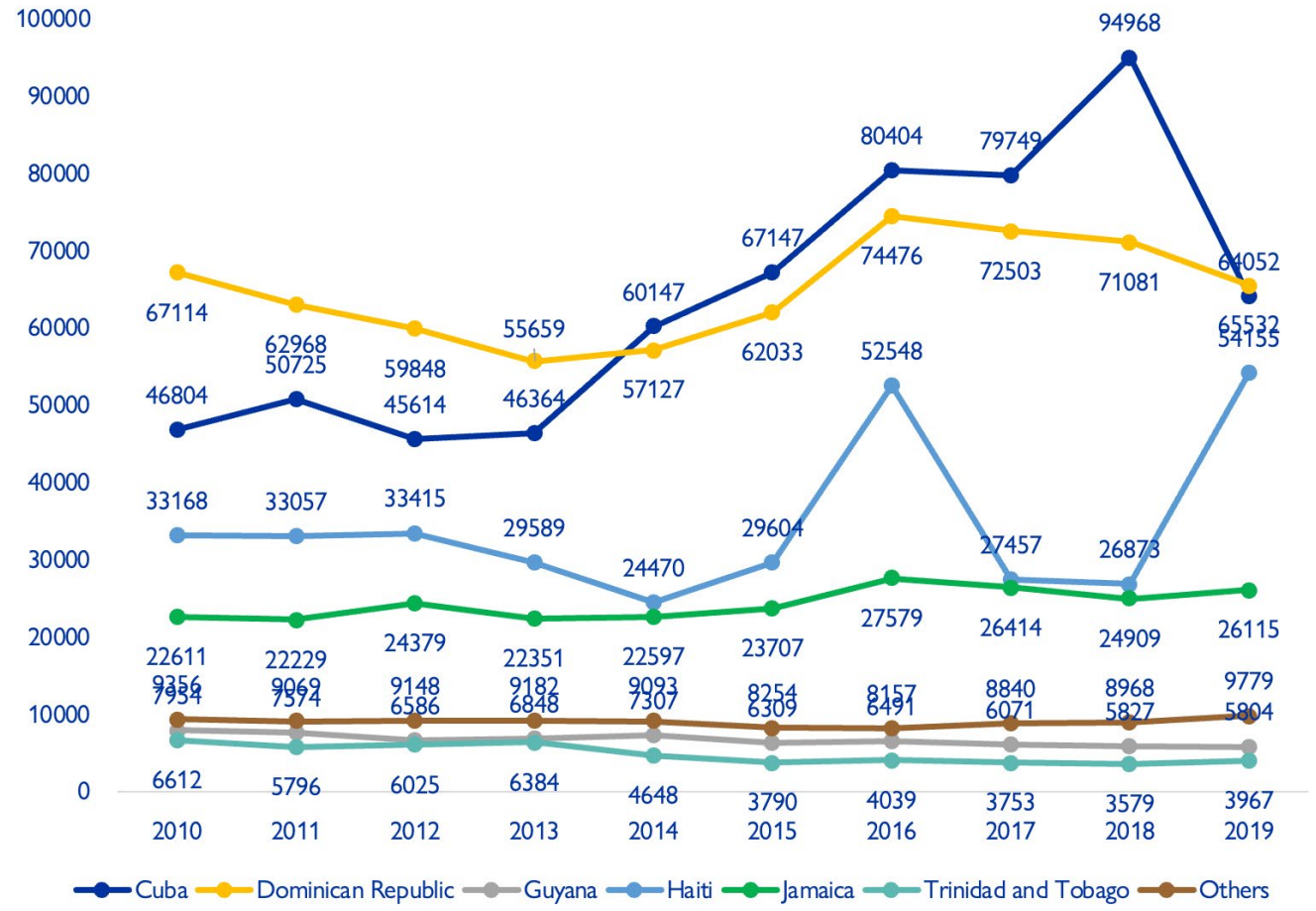
• By filtering UNDESA data by OECD Member Countries, it is determined that 8,686,450, or 88 per cent of all 9,843,150 Caribbean emigrants abroad in 2020 were residing in an OECD Member Country , meaning that nearly 97 per cent of extraregional Caribbean emigrants in 2020 were residing in an OECD Member country (own calculations, based on UNDESA, 2021). As such, an analysis of OECD inflows data by nationality may provide robust insight into trends in all migration movements, at least through regular channels, of extraregional Caribbean migrants in recent years.

[22] Analysis includes nationals originating from all sovereign countries, overseas territories and dependent areas included under UNDESA classifications for the Caribbean, as well as Belize, Guyana and Suriname

[23] Note: migrants originating from Puerto Rico are U.S. passport holders and thus in some instances may not be considered immigrants in the United States. For statistical purposes Puerto Ricans who move to the U.S. are considered migrants in UNDESA databases.

2. CARIBBEAN EMIGRATION - STOCKS

Figure 5: Inflows of Caribbean nationals (by selected nationalities) into OECD Member Countries, 2010 – 2019[24]



*Others - Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname
Source: OECD, *"Inflows of foreign population by nationality"*, International Migration Database, OECD.Stat, n.d. (OECD, Paris) [15 Jul. 2022] (OECD, n.d.a).

The Dominican Republic stands out as the principal country of origin amongst registered inflows of Caribbean foreign nationals to OECD countries between 2010 and 2019, with overall inflows totaling just over 648,341 during this 10-year period. Cuba follows closely behind, with a total of nearly 635,974, although annual inflows of Cuban nationals have outnumbered those of nationals of the Dominican Republic since 2014 but decreased in 2019. These two countries were followed by: Haiti (344,336 from 2010-2019); Jamaica (242,891); Guyana (66,771); Trinidad and Tobago (48,593); Suriname (19,543); Saint Lucia (13,342); Belize (10,301); and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (9,377), to round out the top 10. The U.S. stood out as the principal destination country of registered inflows by far for nearly every country of origin during the defined period, except for Suriname (principal destination countries Netherlands and France) and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (inflows registered in Canada were slightly higher than the U.S.).

- The approximate total (proxy) inflows of nationals from the above 16 Caribbean countries to the OECD area in the period spanning 2010-2019 was 2,076,791, including 231,426 in 2019 alone (data for COVID-19 periods and onward were not yet available at the time of writing). The number of registered inflows per year in this period ranged anywhere from 193,439 in 2011 to as high as 255,711 in 2016.

[24] Data are not standardized.

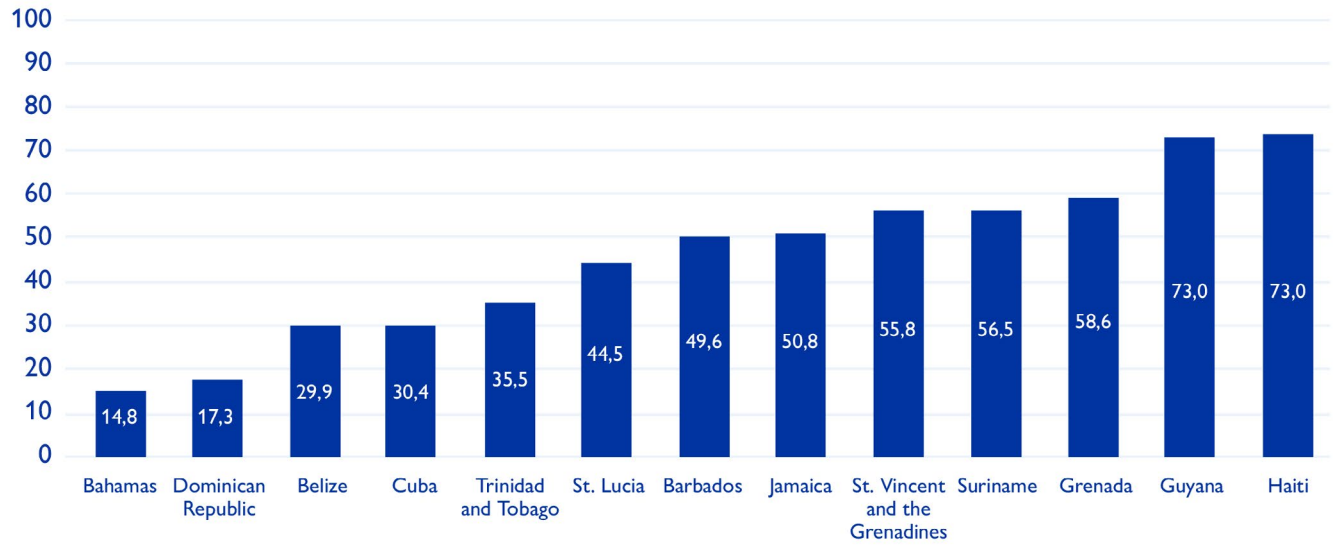
2. CARIBBEAN EMIGRATION - STOCKS

- Individuals from the Dominican Republic were the principal nationality registered among inflows of Caribbean nationals to OECD countries between 2010-2019, with totals reaching 648,341. However, inflows of Cuban nationals were close behind, reaching 635,974, and were higher than those registered of nationals of the Dominican Republic between 2014 and 2018. Haitian nationals were in the third spot, with a total of 344,336 inflows registered in the OECD in the same 10-year period. While inflows of Haitian migrants to the United States during this period sustained high levels, the significant bump seen in 2016 is attributed to an influx of Haitians entering Chile (over 23,000) (described further in Section 5). A total of 242,891 inflows of Jamaican nationals to the OECD area were registered between 2010-2019, following by 66,771 registered inflows of Guyanese migrants, to round out the top five.
- The United States stood out as the principal destination country of registered inflows by far for nearly every Caribbean country of origin listed above in this period except for Suriname (where the principal destination countries were the Netherlands and France) and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (with inflows in Canada reaching slightly higher levels than in the United States).

3. PROFILE OF CARIBBEAN EMIGRANTS

3.1. OECD

Figure 6: Highly educated population **emigration rates of the highly educated population to the OECD area,** by country of birth, selected Caribbean countries of origin, as of 2015/16[25]



Sources: OECD, A Global Profile of Emigrants to OECD Countries: Younger and More Skilled Migrants from More Diverse Countries, 2020 (OECD, Paris); OECD, Database on Immigrants in OECD and non-OECD Countries: DIOC, reference years 2015/16, 2016 (OECD, Paris) [07 Jan 2021].

Data on emigration of highly educated individuals is important in analyzing the impacts of potential economic and social effects of loss of human capital, sometimes known as "brain drain", in countries of origin. In 2015/16, the overall global emigration rate of highly educated individuals (that is, individuals with tertiary education) towards OECD countries was 16 per cent. However, an analysis of emigration rates of the highly educated amongst selected Caribbean countries of origin shows that emigration of highly educated individuals toward OECD countries is far above the overall global average in many places throughout the region, reaching nearly three-fourths of the highly educated population in countries like Haiti and Guyana.

[25] The emigration rate is calculated as the ratio between the number of emigrants living in OECD countries and the total sum of the resident population and emigrants living in OECD countries. Note that only OECD destinations appear in this analysis, thus potentially underestimating the size of the phenomenon in countries of origin where significant numbers of emigrants are moving to non-OECD destination countries. "Highly Educated" corresponds to individuals possessing any level of tertiary education corresponding to International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) levels 5-8.

Table 3: Acquisition of nationality in OECD countries, by country of former nationality, selected Caribbean nationalities, cumulative totals, 2010 – 2020[26]

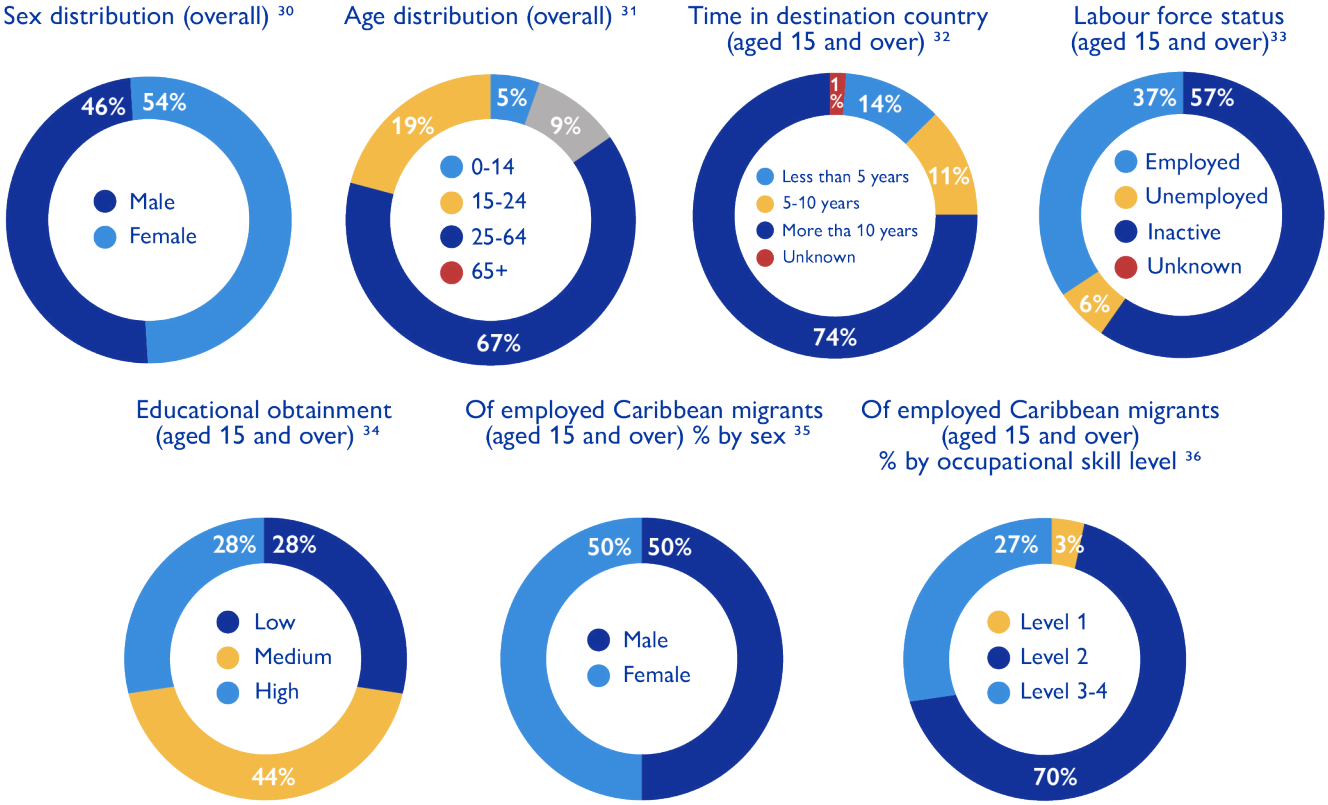
		Top 3 destination countries nationality					
Caribbean country of former nationality	Total Acquisitions (OECD Overall)	1		2		3	
Dominican Republic	399,138	United States	299,393	Spain	76,191	Italy	11,450
Cuba	376,846	United States	302,529	Spain	42,251	Italy	8,559
Haiti	218,069	United States	163,878	France	26,353	Canada	26,477
Jamaica	216,225	United States	166,975	United Kingdom	27,372	Canada	20,846
Guyana	65,840	United States	53,298	Canada	9,028	United Kingdom	2,315
Trinidad and Tobago	62,417	United States	51,011	Canada	6,989	United Kingdom	3,679
Suriname	15,625	Netherlands	7,864	Canada	174	United States	1,560
Saint Lucia	11,407	United States	7,693	Canada	1,828	United Kingdom	1,429
Belize	9,997	United States	9,342	Canada	363	United Kingdom	175
Barbados	9,997	United States	6,715	Canada	973	United Kingdom	1,029
Grenada	8,970	United States	6,399	Canada	1,639	United Kingdom	874
Dominica	8,924	United States	6,327	France	746	United Kingdom	524
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	8,849	United States	4,922	Canada	2,629	United Kingdom	1,244
Bahamas	6,232	United States	5,686	Canada	337	United Kingdom	122
Antigua and Barbuda	4,644	United States	4,267	Canada	202	United Kingdom	151
Saint Kitts and Nevis	3,620	United States	3,308	Canada	102	United Kingdom	163

Source: OECD, "Acquisition of nationality by country of former nationality", International Migration Database, OECD.Stat, n.d. (OECD, Paris) [06 Jan 2021].

Data on acquisition of nationality by foreign nationals are an important indicator of migrant integration and migration outcomes. For immigrants who wish to settle in destination countries, becoming citizens can ensure greater social and economic integration, including full access to employment and civic rights. Of the 16 Caribbean nationalities included above a total of 1.42 million individuals (about the population of Caribbean) acquired citizenship on OECD countries in the 11- year period between 2010 and 2020. Of these 1.42 million, 77 per cent occurred in the U.S. Amongst OECD countries and in general, the U.S. was the main country of acquisitions, of nationality for all Carribbean foreing nationals originating from the above 16 countries.

[26] Resource constraints in processing applications may result in as backlog of unprocessed applications which are not reflected in the figures. The statistics generally cover all means of acquiring the nationality of a country.

Figure 7: Key demographic and socioeconomic characteristics – Caribbean migrants[27] in OECD countries, as of 2015/16[28]



Source: Own Calculations, based on: OECD, Database on Immigrants in OECD Countries, reference years 2015/16, n.d. [28 Jan. 2021].

- The majority (two-thirds) of Caribbean migrants in OECD countries as of 2015/16 were between the ages of 25-64. Of the approximately 7.85 million Caribbean migrants of working age (15 - 64) residing in OECD countries as of 2015/16, approximately three-fourths resided in their respective destination countries for more than 10 years. In 2015/16, of working-age Caribbean migrants in the OECD, there was an overall unemployment rate of six per cent. Unemployment rates of Caribbean migrants in this period appear to be roughly on par with the overall OECD unemployment rate during this time period, which hovered between 6-7 per cent in 2015 and 2016.[36] A notably high proportion of Caribbean migrants in OECD countries in 2015/16 were highly educated (possessing some level of tertiary education), reaching 28 per cent of Caribbean migrants aged 15 and over.

[27] Figures contain aggregate data for the following Caribbean countries / territories or origin: Anguilla, Aruba, Netherlands Antilles (including Bonaire, Curacao, Sint Maarten (Dutch)), Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Belize, Barbados, Cuba, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Montserrat, Puerto Rico, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the British Virgin Islands. Other Caribbean countries / territories included in UNDESA classifications – the French overseas departments of Guadeloupe, Martinique, Saint Martin (French) are not available as they are included under figures for France.

[28] The indicators presented are derived from OECD's Database on Immigrants in OECD countries (DIOC), Revision 2015/16, which contains information for all OECD countries (destinations) and more than 200 countries of origin. The database is primarily sourced from census data. For countries not taking periodic censuses but keeping population registers, data have been extracted from these registers. For some countries, not all themes covered in the database are present in the national census or register. Labour force surveys have been used to fill gaps where possible.

[29] Shows gender distribution out of all Caribbean migrants residing in OECD countries in 2015/16 (n = 8,247,918).

[30] Out of all Caribbean migrants residing in OECD countries in 2015/16 (n = 8,247,918). Includes <0.0001% "Unknown".

[31] Out of all Caribbean migrants over aged 15 and over residing in OECD countries (n = 7,850,299). Includes 0.2% classified as "more than 5 years".

[32] Out of all Caribbean migrants aged 15 and over residing in OECD countries (n = 7,850,299).

[33] n = 7,850,299. "Low" = ISCED levels 0 ('less than primary') through 2 (lower secondary education); "Medium" = ISCED levels 3 (Upper secondary education) and 4 (Post-secondary non-tertiary education); "High" – ISCED levels 5-8 (all levels of tertiary education).

[34] Out of all Caribbean migrants aged 15 and over in OECD countries who reported being employed (n = 4,437,560). Includes 0.2% "Unknown".

[35] n = 4,437,560. Skill levels based on International Standard Classification of Occupations Revision 2008 (ISCO-08). Skill Level 1 "typically involves the performance of simple and routine physical or manual tasks". Skill Level 2 "typically involves the performance of tasks such as operating machinery and electronic equipment; driving vehicles; maintenance and repair of electrical and mechanical equipment" and more, with occupations at this skill level typically requiring "relatively advanced literacy and numeracy skills and good interpersonal communication skills". Skill Level 3 "involves the performance of complex technical and practical tasks". Skill Level 4 "involves the performance of tasks that require complex problem-solving, decision-making and creativity based on an extensive body of theoretical and factual knowledge in a specialized field" (ILO, ISCO-08, 2012).

[36] OECD, "Unemployment rate (total, % of labour force, Jan 2005 – Dec 2020), - OECD Total", n.d. [2 Feb. 2021].

- Similar to the overall sex distribution, females constitute the majority of working-age Caribbean migrants in OECD countries, at 54 per cent compared to 46 per cent males. However, despite constituting a larger proportion of working-age adults, there was a 50-50 distribution between males and females amongst employed Caribbean migrants (aged 15 and over).
- The vast majority (7 in 10) of Caribbean migrants in OECD countries were employed in occupations at skill level 2 (ISCO-08) in 2015/16, which includes clerical support workers, services and sales workers, skilled agricultural, forestry and fishery workers, craft and related trade workers, plant and machine operators, and assemblers, and certain occupations in the armed forces. Only 3 per cent were employed at Skill Level 1 (elementary occupations). Just over one-fourth of employed Caribbean migrants in OECD countries were employed at skill levels 3 and 4, which includes technicians and associate professionals, professionals, managers and certain armed forces occupations.
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UNITED STATES

Figure 8: Nonimmigrant and immigrant visas issued to Caribbean nationals in the United States, 2018 – May 2023

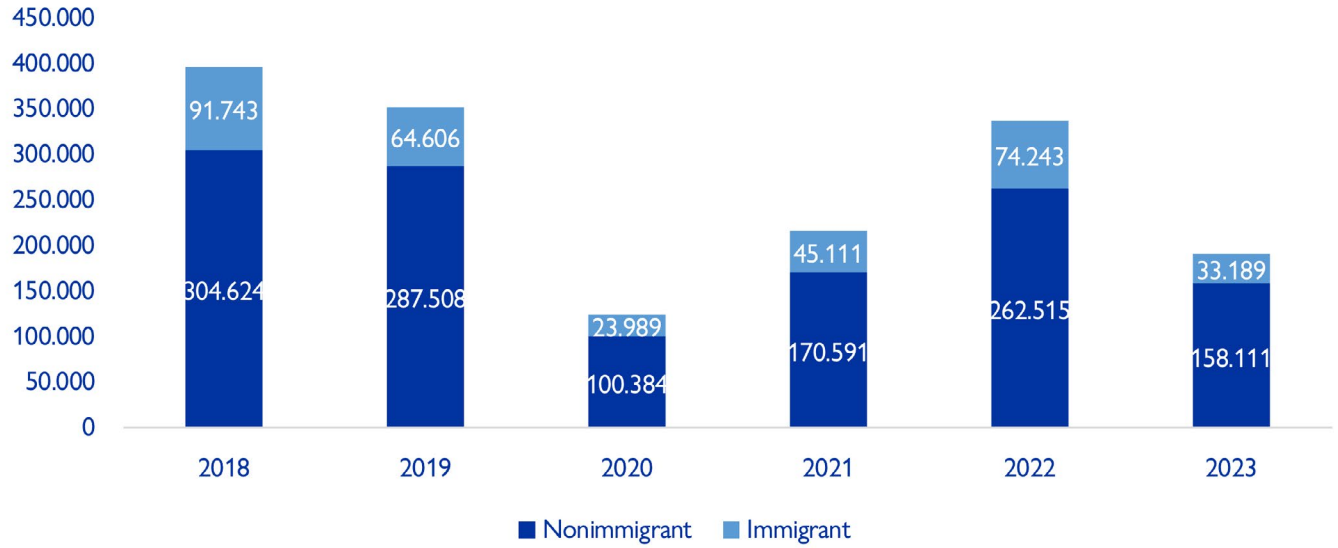
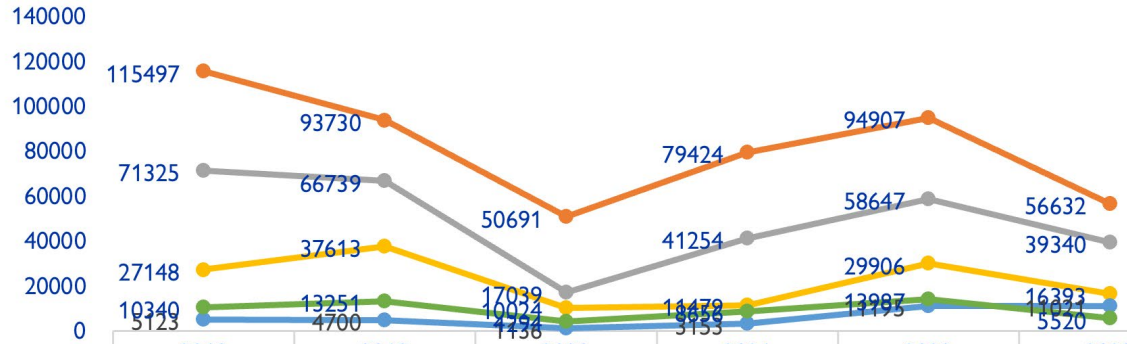
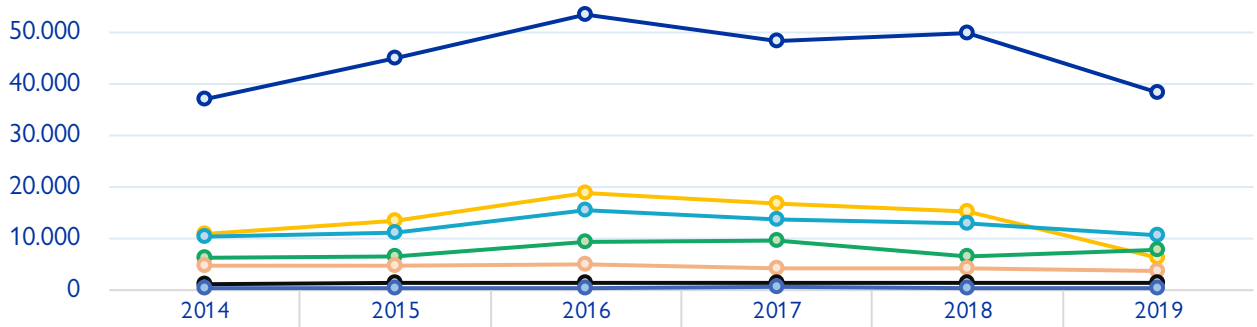


Figure 9: Nonimmigrant visas issued to Caribbean nationals in the United States, by top five Caribbean nationalities, 2018 – May 2023[37]



	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Dominican Republic	115497	93730	50691	79424	94907	56632
Jamaica	71325	66739	17039	41254	58647	39340
Trinidad and Tobago	27148	37613	10024	11479	29906	16393
Guyana	5123	4700	1136	3153	11195	11021
Bahamas	10340	13251	4294	8656	13987	5520

Figure 10: Immigrant visas issued to Caribbean nationals in the United States, by top seven Caribbean nationalities, FY 2014 – 2019[38]



	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Dominican Republic	37.099	45.065	53.339	48.254	49.942	38.186
Haiti	10.774	13.251	18.810	16.694	15.158	6.199
Jamaica	10.343	11.001	15.458	13.695	12.747	10.497
Cuba	6.098	6.298	9.131	9.453	6.503	7.748
Guyana	4.644	4.693	4.869	4.127	4.228	3.701
Trinidad and Tobago	1.118	1.318	1.356	1.247	1.401	1.240
Saint Lucia	302	347	317	392	371	289

Sources: Own Calculations, based on: U.S. Department of State – Bureau of Consular Affairs, *Report of the Visa Office 2014; Report of the Visa Office 2015; Report of the Visa Office 2016; Report of the Visa Office 2017; Report of the Visa Office 2018; Report of the Visa Office 2019; Report of the Visa Office 2020; Monthly Immigrant Visa Issuance Statistics,* n.d.; *Monthly Nonimmigrant Visa Issuance Statistics,* n.d. [4 Feb. 2021].

[37] Fiscal year = 1 October – 31 September. Data for 2020 are provisional and are subject to change. Click here for a directory of non-immigrant visa categories. Numbers include border crossing cards.

[38] H-1B visas are for persons in specialty occupations, H-2A visas are for temporary agricultural workers, H-2B visas are for temporary non-agricultural workers, and H-3 visas are for trainees or special education visitors. L visas correspond to intracompany transferees of individuals already working for their employer abroad to be transferred to the U.S. For additional information on P, O and Q visa categories and temporary worker visas in the U.S. in general, click here.

3. PROFILE OF CARIBBEAN EMIGRANTS

- The number of immigrant and nonimmigrant visas issued to Caribbean nationals in the United States decreased progressively after peaking in 2016. In 2019 the total numbers of visas issued in either category represented a 10.5 per cent decrease over 2018, a 30.4 per cent decrease over 2017 and a 33.5 per cent decrease over 2016 (complete data for 2020 were not yet available at the time of writing). The majority of visas issued to Caribbean nationals in the United States are for temporary visits, business, work and study purposes, with nonimmigrant visas accounting for 81.5 per cent of all visas issued to Caribbean nationals in 2019.
- B1 and B2 visas – travel on temporary business or for tourism purposes – constituted the majority of non-immigrant visas issued to Caribbean nationals between FY 2014 and FY 2020. Further analysis indicates that temporary work visas represented a relatively small proportion of nonimmigrant visas issued to Caribbean nationals. In 2019, temporary work visas in categories39 H (including H-1B, H-2A, H-2B and H-3), L (intracompany transferee), O (Individual with extraordinary ability or achievement), P (athletes, artists or entertainers, categories P-1, P-2 and P-3) and Q (participants in international cultural exchange programs) totaled 19,810, or 6.5 per cent of non-immigrant visas issued that year. Amongst temporary work permits, the majority (15,304, or 77% of temporary work visas issued to Caribbean nationals) were issued in the form of H-2A visas (temporary agricultural workers) to Jamaican nationals. Similar trends could be noted for previous years.
- Jamaican nationals have consistently been one of the principal recipients of H-2A and H-2B (non-agricultural temporary workers) visas in the United States. In FY 2019 and FY 2020, Jamaica was the second-most recipient of H-2B visas after Mexico and third-most recipient of H-2A visas after Mexico and South Africa.

4. CUBAN AND HAITIAN MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

4.1 DATA ON MIGRANTS AND MIGRATION FROM HAITI AND CUBA

Table 4: Cuban and Haitian emigrants, total and by top 5 countries / territories of destination, 2020

Haitians	
Total	**1,769,947**
United States of America	705,361
Dominican Republic	496,112
Chile	236,912
Canada	100,672
France	85,042
Others	145,848

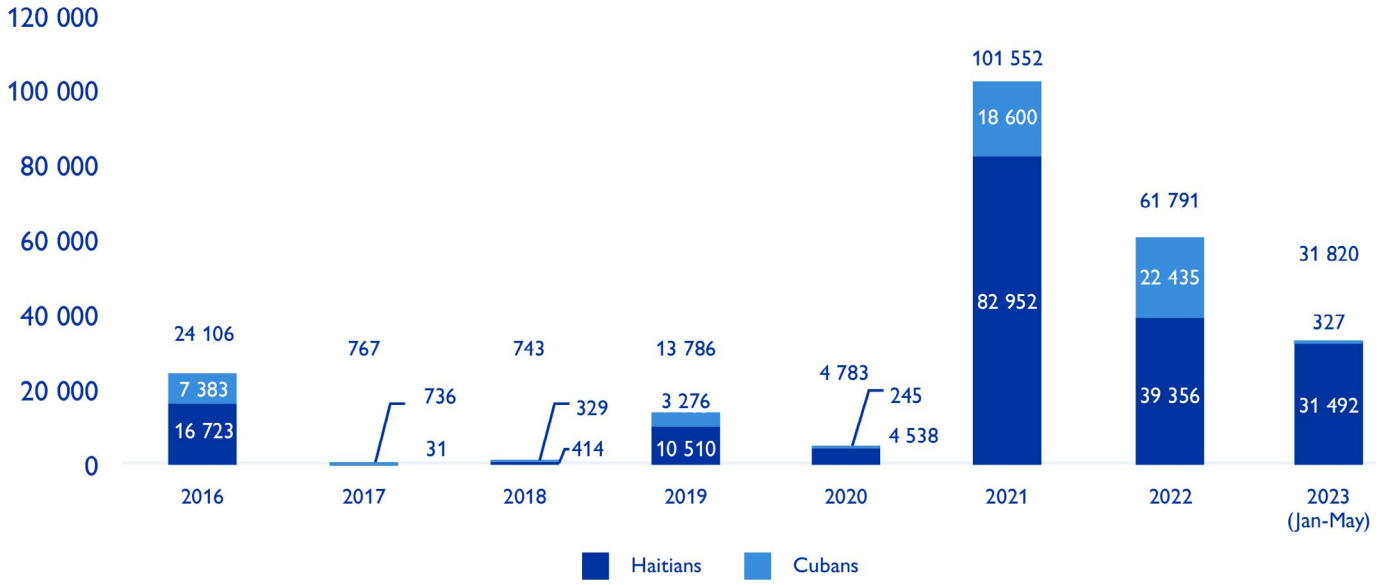
Cubans	
Total	**1,757,434**
United States of America	1,376,211
Spain	162,368
Italy	38,532
Chile	23,929
Canada	19,221
Others	137,173

Source: Own calculations; based on UNDESA, *Table 1: Total migrant stock by origin and major area, region or country of destination, 1990-2020,* [14 Jun. 2023].

- According to UNDESA, over ninety-five per cent (91.76%) of Haitian emigrants resided in the five countries included in Table 4 above in 2020, including nearly 40 per cent in the U.S. alone. An overwhelming majority of Cuban emigrants resided in the U.S. in 2020, constituting the country of destination of over 78 per cent of Cuban nationals residing abroad in that year. However, a comparison of data from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Surveys (ACS) between 2010 and 2018 show that the rate of Cuban immigration to the United States has slowed in recent years. While not yet fully reflected in UNDESA (2020) figures, data from Mexico's 2020 Population and Housing Census show that the number of Cubans residing in Mexico increased from 12,108 in 2010 to 25,976 in 2020.

- Meanwhile, while the United States continues to serve as a principal destination country of Haitian migrants, Haitian migration to other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) has demonstrated a notable spike in recent years. For example, the estimated) number of Haitian migrants living in Chile increased by 595 per cent between 2015 and 2020, from just under 40,000 to nearly 237,000 (per UNDESA). UNDESA estimates also show that the number of Haitians in the Dominican Republic was estimated to increase by more than 21,000 from 475,084 to 496,116 between 2015 and 2020, from 27,591 to 29,629 in the Bahamas, and from just over 19,000 to just over 22,000 in French Guiana in the same time period.
- While accurate estimates on the number of Haitians in Brazil are not available through UNDESA, it is also known that the number of Haitians migrating to Brazil increased substantially in the aftermath of the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. The Observatory of International Migration (Observatório das migrações internacionais, OBMigra) in Brazil estimated that 128,968 Haitians migrated to Brazil between 2010 and 2018, while 32,495 left during the same period.[39] Between 2000 and 2018, Brazil issued a total of 90,607 work permits to Haitians. Data from Mexico's 2020 Population and Housing Census estimated nearly 6,000 Haitians living in the country in that year, although administrative data on humanitarian visas issued in Mexico (see Figure 13) may indicate that this number fluctuates, has changed recently and / or that there may be a significantly larger number of Haitian migrants currently in Mexico who under their respective visa categories are considered visitors rather than residents.

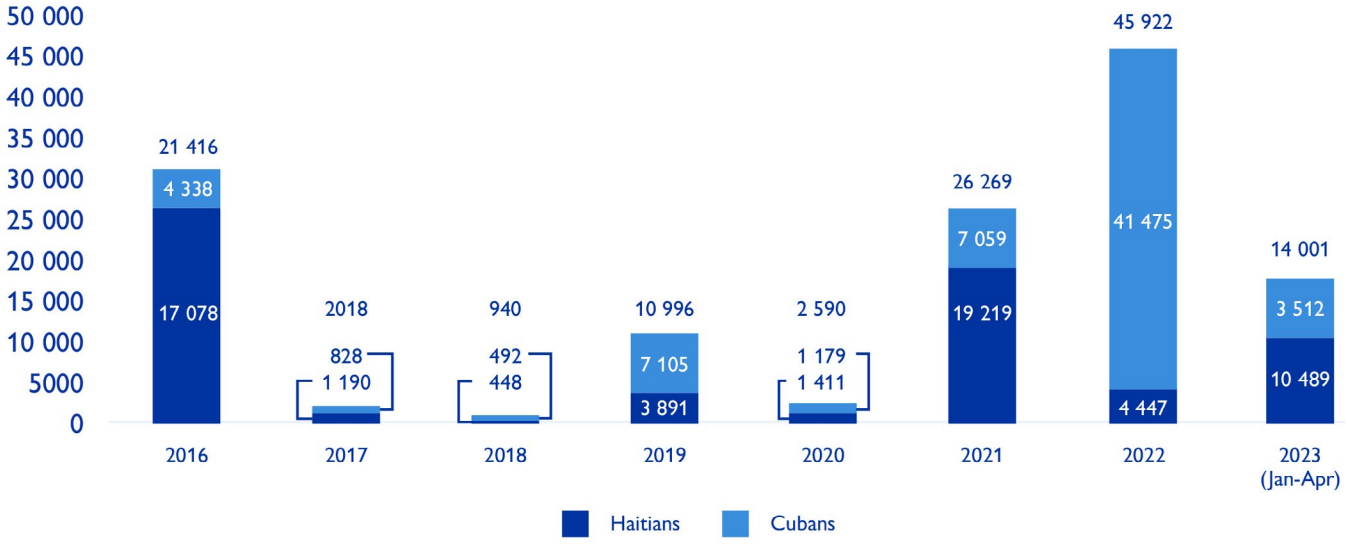
Figure 11: Cuban and Haitian migrants **identified in irregular transit** in the **southern zone of Panama** (Darien Province), 2016 – 2023 (Jan – May).



Source: National Migration Service of Panama (Servicio Nacional de Migración), *"MIGRACIÓN – Irregulares en tránsito por Darién mayo 2023"*, [14 Jun. 2023].

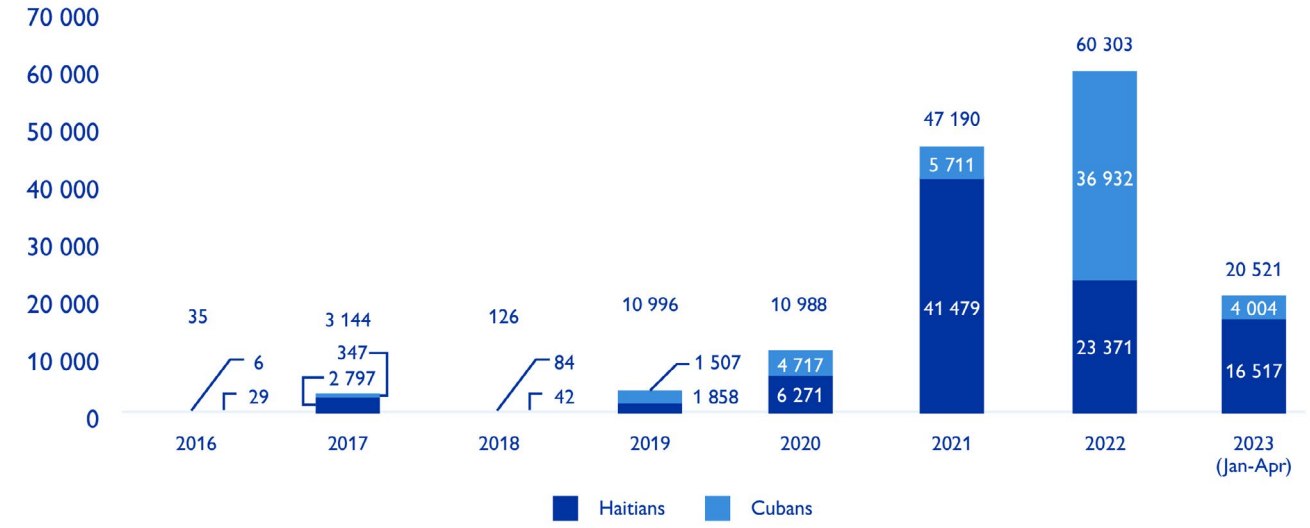
[39] INEGI, Censo de Población y Vivienda 2020, Migración internacional, "Población total nacida en otro país residente en México por entidad federativa según sexo y países seleccionados", n.d. [4 Feb. 2020].

Figure 12: Cuban and Haitian migrants **apprehended by Mexican immigration authorities,** 2016 – 2023 (January – May)[40]



Source: Migration Policy Unit, Mexican Secretariat for Home Affairs, "Cuadro 3.1.1 – Eventos de extranjeros presentados ante la autoridad migratoria, según continente y país de nacionalidad" – 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023. [14 Jun. 2023]

Figure 13: Visitor cards for humanitarian reasons (TVRH) issued to Cuban and Haitian migrants in Mexico, 2016-2023 (January -April)[41]



Source: Migration Policy Unit, Mexican Secretariat for Home Affairs, "Cuadro 3.1.1 – Eventos de extranjeros presentados ante la autoridad migratoria, según continente y país de nacionalidad" – 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023. [14 Jun. 2023].

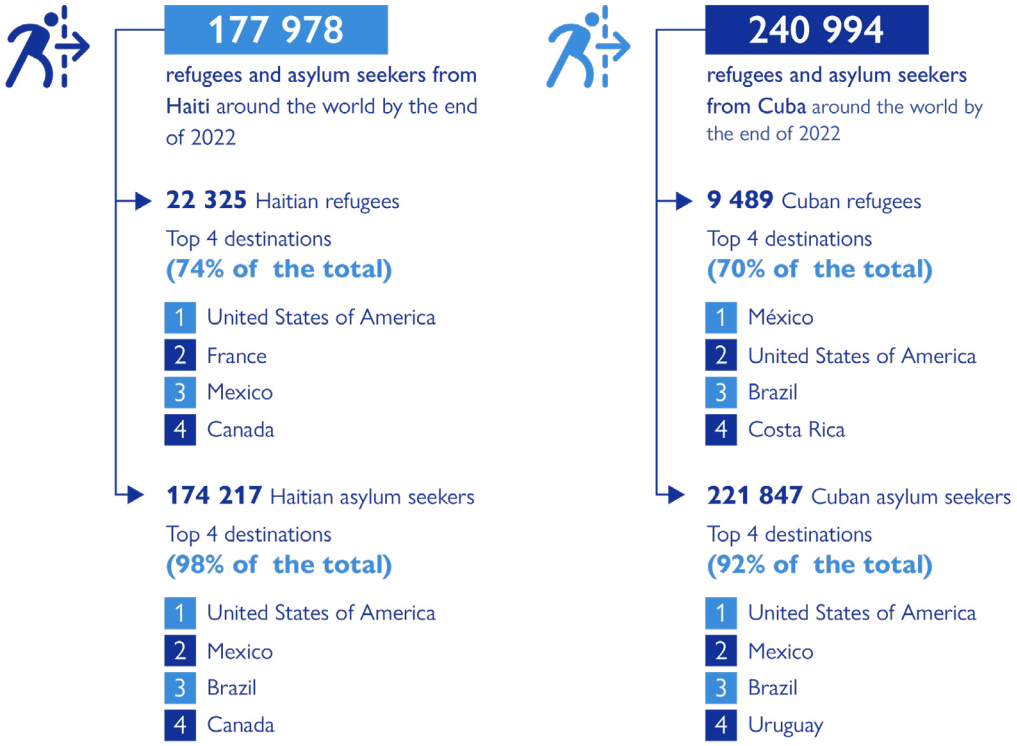
[40] Apprehensions data are based on information recorded in migrant centers, central and local offices of the National Institute of Migration, and correspond to events rather than individuals (i.e. the same individual could have been apprehended more than once) (data for 2020 are provisional and are subject to change).

[41] The TVRH in Mexico is a visa available to certain categories of foreign nationals in Mexico, including unaccompanied migrant children or adolescents, applicants of political asylum or refugee status, or a foreigner who does not fall into one of these outlines cases but for whom a humanitarian cause or public interest does exist which makes his/her admission into the country or regularizing their migratory status in the country necessary. The TVRH allows the holder to remain in Mexico while their case is being assessed, giving them the right to enter and exit national territory as often as desired and awarding permission to work in exchange for remuneration. Upon expiration of the TVRH, the holder may request the status of Permanent Resident (Global Forum on Migration & Development, "Humanitarian visitors cards, Mexico", n.d. [09 Feb. 2021].

4. CUBAN AND HAITIAN MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

- An analysis of administrative data maintained by key transit countries demonstrates that Haitian and Cuban migrants continue to embark on circuitous migration routes through Central America and northward through Mexico with aims of reaching the United States. After relatively few apprehensions recorded by authorities in the Darian zone of Panama (near the border with Colombia) and in Mexico in 2017 and 2018, the number of apprehensions recorded in both locations increased substantially in 2019. While the same trend looked to be continuing in the first two months of 2020, the number of recorded apprehensions dropped off rapidly beginning in March 2020. Overall, the number of apprehensions registered in Panama in 2020 represented a 65 per cent decrease over of 2019, while apprehensions registered in Mexico in 2020 represented a 76 per cent decrease over the previous year. In 2021 the data exceeded what was previously recorded in both Panama and Mexico, apprehensions grew by 2,123% and 1,014%, respectively, compared to 2020. Compared to 2021 in Mexico, apprehensions continued to grow 175% in 2022, while in Panama, apprehensions have decreased during 2022 (39%) and 2023 (up to May there is a 49% decrease compared to the previous year), in this country they remain above the flow registered prior to the COVID-19 pandemic period.
- Data would suggest that Haitian and Cuban migrants journeying northward through Central America are increasingly arriving to Mexico as a country of destination rather than simply as a transit point. This is evidenced not only by the registered increase in Haitian and Cuban residents in Mexico in the 2020 census mentioned previously but could also be highlighted in the rapid increase in temporary visitor cards issued by the Mexican government to Cuban and Haitian migrants for humanitarian reasons (TVRH) (see Figure 13) beginning in 2019. The number of TVRH visas issued to Cubans and Haitians in Mexico increased by 2,671% in 2019 compared to 2018, and continued to grow 327% in 2020, 429% in 2021 and 128% in 2022, compared to the previous year.

Figure 14: Cumulative **global stock of refugees and asylum seekers originating from Haiti and Cuba** under United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHRC) mandate as of the end of 2022.[42]



[43] [44]Source: HRC, "Population figures: End of year stock population totals", UNHRC Refugee Statistics, n.d. [21 Jun. 2023].

[42] The TVRH in Mexico is a visa available to certain categories of foreign nationals in Mexico, including unaccompanied migrant children or adolescents, applicants of political asylum or refugee status, or a foreigner who does not fall into one of these outlines cases but for whom a humanitarian cause or public interest does exist which makes his/her admission into the country or regularizing their migratory status in the country necessary. The TVRH allows the holder to remain in Mexico while their case is being assessed, giving them the right to enter and exit national territory as often as desired and awarding permission to work in exchange for remuneration. Upon expiration of the TVRH, the holder may request the status of Permanent Resident (Global Forum on Migration & Development, "Humanitarian visitors cards, Mexico", n.d. [09 Feb. 2021].

[43] U.S. Department of State, "Table 14: Refugee arrivals by region and country of nationality: Fiscal years 2010 to 2019", n.d. [09 Feb. 2021].

[44] U.S. Department of State, "Table 19: Individuals granted asylum defensively by region and country of nationality: Fiscal years 2010 to 2019", n.d. [01 Feb. 2021]; "Table 17: Individuals granted asylum affirmatively by region and country of nationality: Fiscal years 2010 to 2019", n.d. [01 Feb. 2021].
of nationality: Fiscal years 2010 to 2019", n.d. [01 Feb. 2021].

4. CUBAN AND HAITIAN MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

Cuba and Haiti are by far the principal origin countries of refugees and asylum seekers originating from the Caribbean countries, reaching a combined total of nearly 175,000 around the world by the end of 2020. The largest numbers of both Haitian and Cuban refugees were located in the U.S. In the ten years spanning 2010 – 2019, a total of 20,011 Cuban refugees and 22 Haitian refugees were resettled to the United States.49 Additionally, between 2010 – 2019, 1,055 Cubans and 4,467 Haitians were granted asylum in the U.S. after applying once already present on U.S. territory or whilst seeking admission at a porty of entry (known as 'asylees').50 Brazil was the principal country of destination for both Haitian and Cuban asylum seekers. UNHCR data showed a total stock of 15,432 Cuban asylum seekers and 38,864 Haitian asylum seekers in Brazil as of the end of 2020.

Table 5: Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haitian migrants in the United States as of May 2023

Most recent decision of TPS designation	Required arrival date in the U.S.	Expiration date	3 August 2024	% of total migrants in the U.S. with TPS
Termination	12 January 2011	3 August 2024	**107,000**	11.9 %

Source: Adapted from U.S. Congressional Research Service, Temporary Protected Status: Overview and Current Issues, May 2023 (US CRS, Washington DC).

Since the earthquake in Haiti of 12 January 2010, Haitian migrants have qualified for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) in the U.S., "a blanket form of humanitarian relief" and a "statutory embodiment of safe haven for foreign nationals within the United States who may not qualify for asylum but are nonetheless fleeing – or reluctant to return to – potentially dangerous situations" (US FAS, 2020). As of May 2023 there were over 107,000 Haitian migrants in the U.S. with TPS, constituting 11.9 per cent of the 900,000 individuals were TPS holders or were eligible for TPS protections at the end of 2022.

5. REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS FROM ELSEWERE IN THE CARIBBEAN

Table 6: Cumulative global stock of refugees and asylum seekers originating from selected other Caribbean origin countries reported by UNHCR as of the end of 2022

Country of origin	Refugees	Asylum seekers	Total
Dominican Republic	724	6,996	**7,720**
Jamaica	1,868	3,345	**5,213**
Bahamas	781	1,210	**1,991**
Guyana	248	929	**1,177**
Trinidad and Tobago	289	627	**916**
Belize	65	481	**546**
Barbados	231	226	**457**
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	136	120	**256**
Dominica	57	162	**219**
Suriname	26	147	**173**
Grenada	51	116	**167**
Saint Kitts and Nevis	22	32	**54**
Curacao	35	5	**40**
Turks and Caicos Islands	19	11	**30**
Cayman Islands	5	0	**5**

Source: UNHRC, "Population figures: End of year stock population totals", UNHRC Refugee Statistics, n.d. [13 Jan. 2021].

5. REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS FROM ELSEWERE IN THE CARIBBEAN

Aside from Cuban and Haitian nationals, the total number of refugees and asylum seekers originating from other Caribbean countries is minimal and did not exceed more than 5,000 from any one country at the end of 2020 (see Table 6 above). Aside from Cuban and Haitian nationals, the U.S. did not resettle any other Caribbean refugees in the period of 2010 – 2019. Other nationalities of note who received asylee status in the United States in the same period, whether affirmatively or defensively, included asylees from the Dominican Republic (totaling 117 in 2010 – 2019), Jamaica (totaling 576 in the same ten-year period) and Guyana (totaling 65 from 2010 – 2019).[45] •

6. INTRAREGIONAL MOBILITY AND MIGRATION

Free movement of persons in Caribbean countries has become a critical component of regional integration in recent decades and has been enshrined in both the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) (created in 2001 and operationalized in 2006) and OECS's Eastern Caribbean Economic Union (ECUE), established in 2010.[46] c.[47]

- In the CSME, all CARICOM nationals are entitled to free movement and are allowed a six-month stay upon arrival to any other Member States, under the framework known as "Facilitation of Travel". While this permission does not include the right to work, the CSME also includes the provision of Skills Certificates, which enable indefinite stays for selected skilled nationals who may then access the labour market in any Member State with the same rights as the national labour force. There is a total of 12 categories of Skills Certificates, ranging from musicians to teachers.[50] The CSME also facilitates movement of persons who are service providers or who are establishing businesses.

- In the ECUE (OECS), full free movement is granted to all OECS nationals with entry granted using a valid photo ID. OECS nationals are entitled to an indefinite period of stay, with work privileges, in any Member State within the bloc. However, there are no data available on the number of OECS nationals who have availed of this scheme.

[45] U.S. Department of State, "Table 19: Individuals granted asylum defensively by region and country of nationality: Fiscal years 2010 to 2019", n.d. [01 Feb. 2021]; "Table 17: Individuals granted asylum affirmatively by region and country of nationality: Fiscal years 2010 to 2019", n.d. [01 Feb. 2021].

[46] U.S. Department of State, "Table 19: Individuals granted asylum defensively by region and country of nationality: Fiscal years 2010 to 2019", n.d. [01 Feb. 2021]; "Table 17: Individuals granted asylum affirmatively by region and country of nationality: Fiscal years 2010 to 2019", n.d. [01 Feb. 2021].

[47] OECS, "Member States", n.d. [5 Feb. 2020].

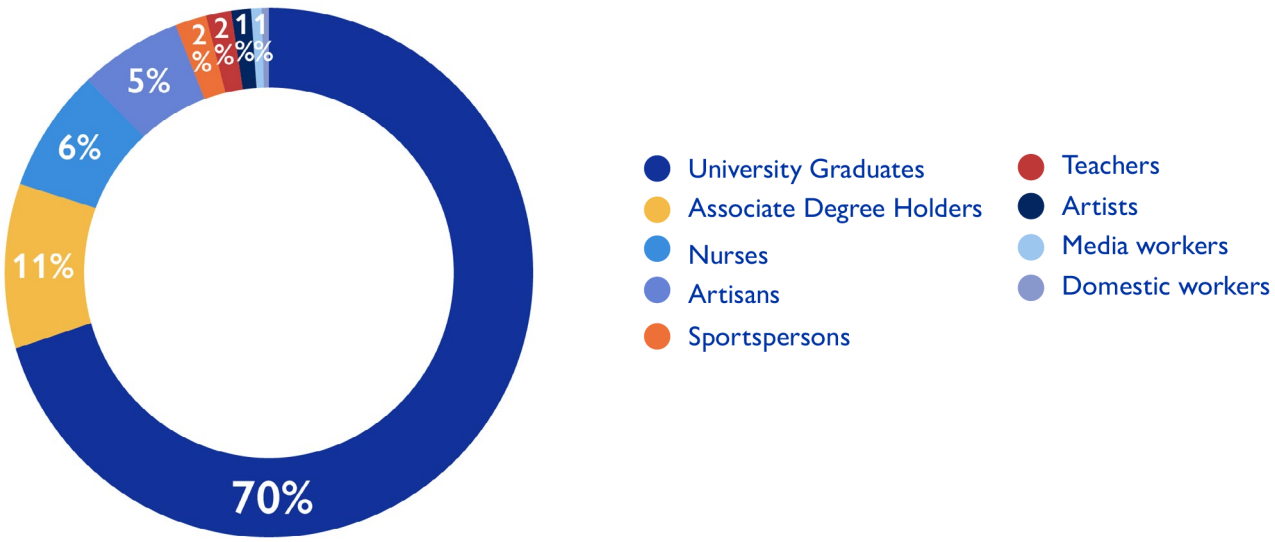
Table 7: Flows of CARICOM nationals under the "Facilitation of Travel" framework, principal origin and destination countries, based on cumulative totals of annual free movement data, 2013 - 2017[48]

Origin country or territory	Total (2013-2017)
Trinidad and Tobago	90,975
Guyana	72,913
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	63,430
Jamaica	40,632
Barbados	36,577
Saint Lucia	29,270
Grenada	25,935
Dominica	25,272
Antigua and Barbuda	18,886
Suriname	17,464
Saint Kitts and Nevis	10,429
The Bahamas	9,341
Haiti	5,936
Belize	3,013
Montserrat	2,476
Total	**453,370**

Destination country	Total (2013-2017)
Barbados	147,072
Trinidad and Tobago	124,314
Guyana	51,829
Antigua and Barbuda	48,203
Jamaica	44,532
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	23,122
Belize	256
Total	**439,328**

**Note* – *No statistics available for Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and Suriname*

Figure 15: Skills Certificates issued to CARICOM nationals from 2013-2017, by category[49]



Source: Adapted of data first presented in IOM's 2017 report, Free Movement of Persons in the Caribbean: Economic and Security Dimensions, based on data provided by CARICOM's Single Market and Economy (CSME) Unit (Georgetown, Guyana) in June 2019. The CSME Unit gave express consent for use of these data in the present report in January 2021.

[48] IOM, Free Movement of Persons in the Caribbean: Economic and Security Dimensions, 2019.
[49] Out of the total number of Skills Certificates issued to CARICOM nationals in 2017 (n = 7,382). Data are a combination of statistics from the CSME Unit as well as data provided by statistical units of certain CARICOM Member States. Data are incomplete and should only be used to derive general trends.

6. INTRAREGIONAL MOBILITY AND MIGRATION

Of CARICOM countries reporting data, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago by far constituted the principal recipient countries of CARICOM nationals entering under the "Facilitation of Travel" mobility scheme between 2013-2017, while Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines stood out above other CARICOM Member States as principal countries of origin. The majority of CARICOM nationals being awarded Skills Certificates from 2013-2017 (the most recent year for which data were available) were University Graduates, followed by Associate Degree holders, Artisans, Nurses and Sportspersons, to round out the top five (the top five categories constituted 92 per cent of all Skills Certificates issued to CARICOM nationals in the five-year period). However, IOM has previously noted that the overall quantity of Skills Certificates issued each year is minimal – in 2017, the total reached just 1,165. Sixty per cent (60%) of Skills Certificates issued in 2017 were issued in Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. CARICOM data suggest that work permits continue to be utilized more frequently by CARICOM nationals than Skills Certificates in order to migrate intrarregionally for work

7. RETURN MIGRATION

7.1. EXPLORING TRENDS IN RETURN MIGRATION THROUGH DESTINATION-SIDE DATA SOURCES"

Table 8: Returns of persons from the U.S. by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), by country of citizenship, fiscal years (FY) 2016 – FY 2022, selected Caribbean nationalities[50]

Country of citizenship	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Dominican Republic	1,981	1,986	1,769	2,186	1,835	1,289	1,497	**4,621**
Haiti	310	5,578	934	690	895	353	1,532	**2,780**
Jamaica	787	782	792	751	523	406	342	**1,271**
Cuba	64	160	463	1,179	1,583	95	48	**1,726**
Trinidad and Tobago	128	128	104	106	73	48	38	**159**
Guyana	93	137	142	125	84	79	62	**225**
Belize	120	82	91	90	78	42	65	**185**
Bahamas	99	95	101	109	76	94	55	**225**

Source: U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Fiscal Year Enforcement and Removal Operations, FY 2020, FY 2019, FY 2018, FY 2017, FY 2016, FY 2015, FY 2014.

Table 9: Caribbean nationals returned by Mexican authorities, by country of citizenship, 2015 - 2022[51]

Country of citizenship	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Cuba	466	3,617	608	179	1,808	67	899	5,003	**5,902**
Haiti	30	21	27	13	263	329	1,340	31	**1,371**
Dominican Republic	117	72	42	39	27	7	66	178	**244**
Belize	53	32	24	52	68	1,179	101	35	**136**
Jamaica	6	8	3	1	1	106	4	27	**31**

Source: Migration Policy Unit, Mexican Secretariat for Home Affairs, "Cuadro 3.2.1 – Eventos de extranjeros devueltos por la autoridad migratoria mexicana, según continente y país de nacionalidad", 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020.

[50] ICE Removals include removals and returns initiated by ICE and those initiated by other agencies in which "aliens were turned over to ERO for repatriation efforts". Returns include voluntary returns, voluntary departures, and Withdrawals Under Docket Control". Any voluntary return recorded on or after June 1, 2013 without an ICE intake case is not recorded as an ICE removal. Individuals removed from the U.S. may be returned to a third country and not to the original country of citizenship. Fiscal years are from 1 October – 31 September.

[51] Excludes one individual returned to Trinidad and Tobago in 2015. Data include removals as well as assisted returns and minors of assisted returns. Data for 2020 are provisional and are subject to change.

Table 10: Caribbean nationals returned from the European Union (E.U.) and the United Kingdom (U.K.) after being issued an order to leave, by country of citizenship, 2014-2019[52]

Country of citizenship	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
Jamaica	515	585	530	385	230	165	**2,410**
Suriname	370	330	280	235	255	265	**1,735**
Dominican Republic	330	310	340	205	200	205	**1,590**
Trinidad and Tobago	120	115	120	120	115	120	**710**
Cuba	95	100	110	100	160	105	**670**
Saint Lucia	80	90	75	60	90	65	**460**
Grenada	50	55	70	50	70	55	**350**
Barbados	55	55	40	45	50	35	**280**
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	55	45	45	35	50	55	**260**
Dominica	35	25	20	25	25	35	**160**
Guyana	40	40	50	40	25	25	**215**
Haiti	30	25	20	25	25	35	**160**
Antigua and Barbuda	20	30	30	25	30	20	**155**
Saint Kitts and Nevis	15	25	20	25	20	25	**130**
Belize	5	10	20	15	15	10	**75**
Bahamas	10	10	15	10	10	5	**60**

Source: Eurostat, "Third country nationals returned following an order to leave – annual data (rounded)", updated as of 23 November 2020, n.d. [08 Feb. 2021].

- Return migration is an important component of overall migration dynamics in the Caribbean and has become increasingly prominent in recent years. IOM previously identified four key categories of return migrants to Caribbean countries of origin, including: (1) individuals who were removed by authorities in destination countries; voluntary returns – both of (2) economically active young persons, as well as (3) older retirees who had emigrated from the Caribbean in the 1960s, and (4) migrants – particularly family units – who return to the Caribbean to raise their families, often in order to afford private education for their children.
- Very few Caribbean origin countries publish up-to-date data on return migration. Data on returns from countries of destination are thus used (see Tables 8-10). While data recorded in the U.S., Mexico and the E.U / U.K. include both enforced returns and voluntary returns, figures are likely an underestimate as they would not capture returns occurring without state involvement. Notably, for the U.S., Mexico and the E.U, return data do not necessarily imply that all persons were returned to their country of nationality, as a certain proportion of returns could have been to third countries.
- An analysis of Tables 8-10 shows that, since 2014/2015, returns of Dominican and Cuban nationals featured rather prominently in all three areas of destination. Returns of Haitian nationals featured prominently in both the U.S. and Mexico but less so in the E.U. / U.K. Numerous returns were recorded of nationals of Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica from both the E.U. / U.K. and the U.S. but not from Mexico.
- Returns of Cuban nationals from the U.S. registered their highest numbers in 2019, increasing by 155 per cent over 2018. Returns of Dominican nationals from the U.S. also reached their highest peak in six years in 2019. Returns of Cuban nationals from Mexico dropped off significantly in 2020 – by 99 per cent compared to 2019.

[52] Includes third-country nationals who have in fact left the territory of an EU Member State, following an administrative or judicial decision or act stating their stay is unlawful and imposing an obligation to leave the territory. Figures include enforced and voluntary returns. Voluntary returns refer to the situation in which the third-country national complies voluntarily with the obligation to return (i.e. no enforcement procedure had to be launched).

7. RETURN MIGRATION

- In the European Union / U.K., nearly all of the nationals from Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago returned from 2014 and 2019 were returned from the U.K. Returns of Cuban nationals took place from a number of EU destination countries, including Germany, Spain, France, the Netherlands, Austria, Sweden and the United Kingdom, amongst others. Returns of nationals of Dominica occurred mainly from the U.K. but also in smaller part from France. Returns from the Dominican Republic were spread out between Greece, Spain, France, the Netherlands and the U.K. Returns of Haitians occurred mainly from France and the U.K. Returns of nationals of Guyana took place mainly from the U.K but also the Netherlands, while nationals from Suriname were mainly returned from the Netherlands and in smaller part from the U.K.

IOM's Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration (AVRR) program

IOM has implemented assisted voluntary return and reintegration (AVRR) programmes since 1979. IOM's AVRR support to migrants comprises a range of activities, and typically includes: the provision of pre-departure counselling, the purchase of flight tickets, administrative and travel assistance, and where possible, the provision of reintegration assistance. In the ten-year period between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2019, IOM assisted 2,619 beneficiaries with assisted voluntary return to Caribbean countries of origin. The largest number of beneficiaries in this period were from Haiti (constituting 47 per cent of all beneficiaries), followed by the Dominican Republic (18 per cent), Suriname (14 per cent), Cuba (9 per cent) and Jamaica (5 per cent), to round out the top five.

Source: IOM Migrant Protection and Assistance (MPA) Division.

8. IMMIGRATION TO CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

Table 11: Top 10 destination countries / territories of immigrants in the Caribbean region, 2020

1.63 million International migrants residing in Caribbean countries (including intraregional and extraregional migrants) as of 2020

		Principal countries / Territories of origin					
Destination country / Territory	**Total Immigrants**	**1**		**2**		**3**	
Dominican Republic	603,794	Haiti	496,112	Venezuela*	34,063	U.S.	14,626
Puerto Rico	247,132	U.S. nationals*	159,515	Dominican Republic	46,905	Cuba	12,637
Guadeloupe	90,206	France	50,960	Haiti	13,973	Martinique	8,635
Trinidad and Tobago	78,849	Venezuela	24,001	Guyana	10,923	Grenada	8,913
Martinique	68,624	France	52,350	Guadeloupe	6,070	Saint Lucia	2,256
Bahamas	63,583	Haiti	29,629	U.S.	10,359	Jamaica	8,042
Belize	62,043	Guatemala	26,767	El Salvador	10,016	Honduras	9,784
Curaçao	57,210	Venezuela	16,500	Netherlands	10,562	Dominican Republic	6,665
Aruba	53,593	Venezuela	17,000	Colombia	10,926	Netherlands	5,128
Suriname	47,801	Guyana	13,557	Brazil	5,566	China	5,446

** Note: b both the United States Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico are overseas territories of the U.S. Nationals born in mainland U.S. and living in these territories may not be considered as international migrants under certain U.S. definitions. However, these individuals are considered international migrants for statistical purposes in UNDESA databases. Venezeula (Bolivarian Republic of), hereafter Venezuela.*

Source: UNDESA, *Table 1: Total migrant stock at mid-year by origin and major area, region or country of destination, 1990-2020*, 2020 [21 Jul. 2023].

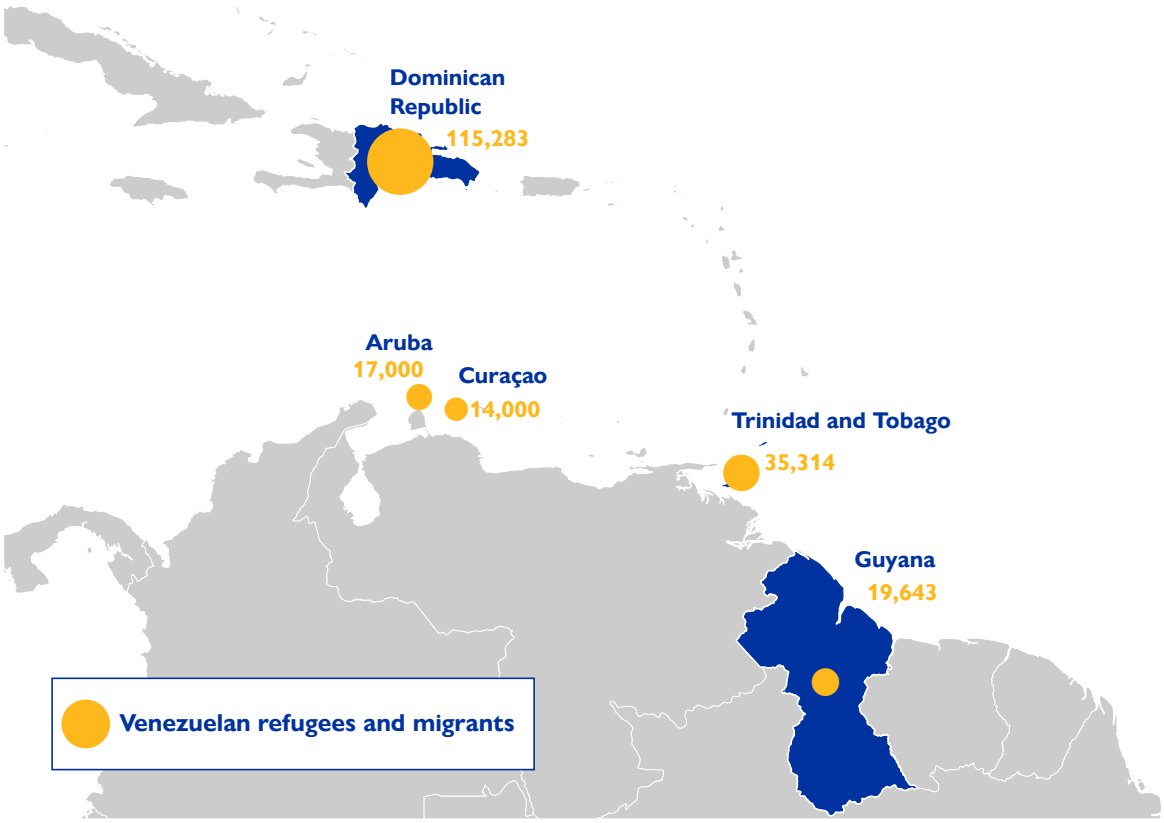
8. IMMIGRATION TO CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

Despite primarily being a region of emigration, Caribbean countries and territories also serve as destination countries of both intraregional and extraregional migrants. As of 2020, there were 1.64 million international migrants residing in Caribbean countries. Just over one-third of these migrants were in the Dominican Republic. Given that UNDESA figures are based primarily on population censuses, more recent migration movements within the region (for example, of Venezuelan migrants and refugees) may not be fully reflected in the dataset as of 2020.

9. VENEZUELAN MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

Figure 16: Venezuelan migrants and refugees in the Caribbean countries as of May 2023

195,979 Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the Caribbean countries as of May 2023



Source: IOM and UNHCR, R4V, Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela, R4V Latin America and the Caribbean, Venezuelan Refugees and Migrants in the Region - May 2023. [21 July. 2023]

Note: This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown, and designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM

- In recent years, countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) have been facing one of the largest outflow movements of refugees and migrants in the history of the region. As of May 2023, more than 7.3 million refugees and migrants from Venezuela resided outside of their home country, an estimated 6.1 million of which were residing in other countries in LAC. The Caribbean sub-region of Aruba, Curacao, the Dominican Republic, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago have also experienced the arrival of approximately 201,240 Venezuelan refugees and migrants. Although the five aforementioned countries host just three per cent (3.3%) of the total stock of Venezuelan migrants and refugees in the LAC region as of May 2023, Venezuelans constitute a measurable proportion of the total population in a number of small island states in the region.

10. IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON MOBILITY AND TOURISM

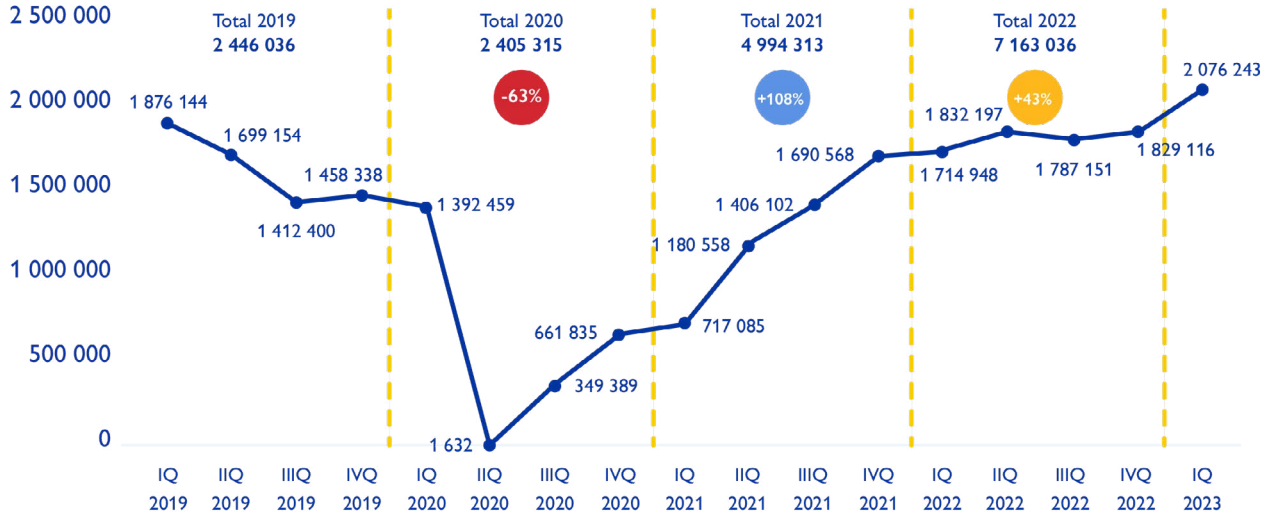
10.1. DATA AND TRENDS ON ARRIVALS IN THE REGION

Table 12: Monthly international tourist arrivals in 2020, Caribbean, % change over 2019[53]

Jan	Feb	Mar	Abr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
-2.2%	+0.3%	-57.2%	-97.6%	-99.3%	-98.8%	-94.7%	-78.8%	-76.4%

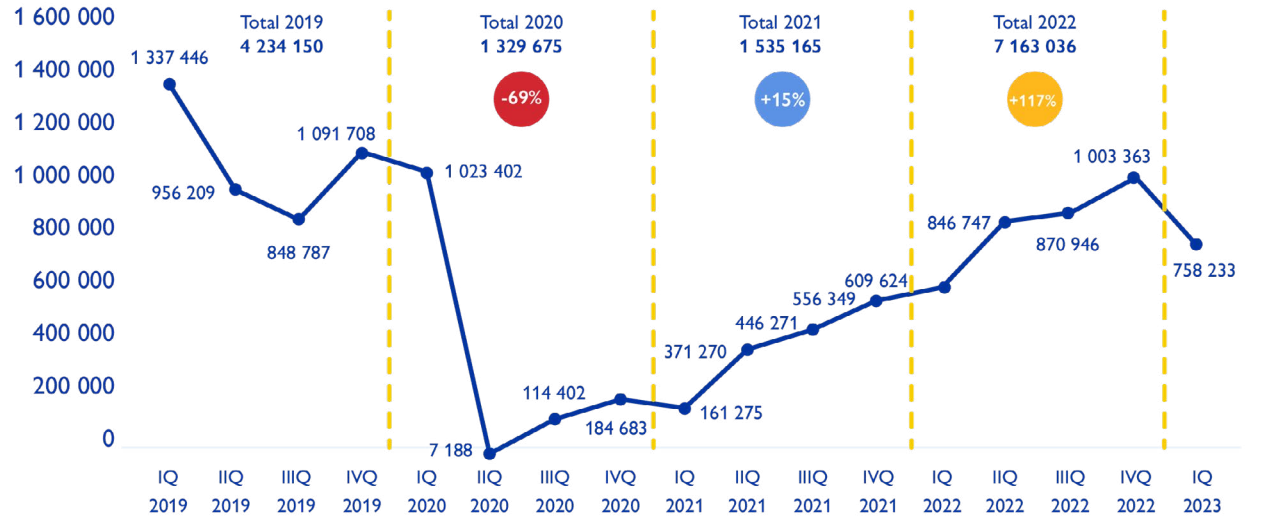
Figure 17: Quarterly entries of foreigners and/or nationals in Caribbean countries, 2019 – 2023 (first quarter).

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (FOREIGNERS AND NATIONALS), 2019 - 2023 (first quarter)



Source: Central Bank of the Dominican Republic, "Sector turismo – total (residencia y aeropuertos) – 2019-2023", n.d. [15 Jun. 2023].

JAMAICA (FOREIGNERS AND NATIONALS), 2019 and 2023 (first quarter)



Source: Jamaica Tourist Board, Monthly Statistical Report 2019-2023, May 2023 [15 Jun. 2023].

[53] Caribbean country classifications based on the IMF (see Statistical Annex of IMF World Economic Outlook).

BAHAMAS (FOREIGNERS), 2019 and 2023 (first quarter)

Source: Bahamas Ministry of Tourism, "Foreign Arrivals (Air & Sea Landed & Cruise) – 2019-2023", n.d. [15 June. 2021].

In 2020, there was a significant decrease in human mobility throughout the region, beginning in March. This decline in mobility coincided with the introduction of travel restrictions imposed by various countries in the region to contain the outbreak of COVID-19. Overall, tourist arrivals to the Caribbean region declined by 69 per cent in 2020 compared with 2019. The decline in the tourism industry raised numerous concerns given the economic reliance on the sector for many of the smaller island nations.

The economic recovery of the tourism sector began in 2021 and continued to grow in 2022 for the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, and the Bahamas. The Dominican Republic has managed to recover its visitation above (11%) the period prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bahamas is very close to this situation for 2022 (-3%) and manages to have a better first quarter in 2023 (23%) compared to the same period in 2019, just like the Dominican Republic (11%). Jamaica continues below the data (-21%) for entries indicated before the measures taken by the pandemic. The speed of recovery determines important conditions in the countries, such as recovering jobs and income associated with tourism, to improve their economy in general.

11. REMITTANCES

11.1 OVERVIEW OF MIGRANT REMITTANCES IN THE CARIBBEAN

In the context of international migration, remittances are usually understood as money or goods / in-kind transfers sent by international migrants back to families, friends and communities in countries of origin (IOM, n.d.). Migrant remittances can be sent through both formal channels (such as via bank wire transfers) as well as informal channels (for example, money being physically carried back home), and may be sent by migrants residing permanently in their respective countries of destination or by short-term migrant workers employed temporarily in a foreign country where they are not a usual resident.

Remittances are by far the most important source of external financing for the Caribbean, far outnumbering foreign direct investment (FDI) and official development assistance (ODA) (IMF, 2017). The Caribbean is primarily a net recipient of remittances, and the region has seen an increase in absolute inflows year over year since 2013 (Center for Latin American Monetary Studies, CEMLA, 2021). In many countries in the region, migrant remittances amount to 10 per cent of GDP or more (World Bank, n.d.x.), and often form a fundamental support and insurance mechanism for many families and communities back home.

The COVID-19 pandemic generated concerns both regionally and globally regarding the capacities of migrants to send remittances home, given the strong socioeconomic impacts of the crisis in migrant destination countries. However,

- Despite initial projections of a decline, remittances to the Caribbean actually increased by 18.2 per cent in 2020 compared with levels seen in 2019 (CEMLA, 2021). This would mean that the region in general fared better than the rest of the world that year, which overall saw a decline of 1.6 per cent compared with 2019 (World Bank, 2021).

This significant increase is attributable to numerous factors, including remitters sending larger sums of money home to support families affected by the COVID-19 crisis and various disasters in the region (for example, Hurricanes Eta and Iota), economic stimulus in the United States and other destination countries as well as more remitters sending money through formal instead of informal channels (World Bank, 2021).

This section presents key data and trends on remittances in the Caribbean, sourced in large part form World Bank Migration and Remittances data, based on annual estimates of national balance of payment statistics produced by central banks and compiled by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) (IOM, 2021). It is important to note that estimates in this section do not include informal transfers.[54]

[54] For additional information on methodologies and limitations, see Plaza and Ratha, 2017.

11.2 REMITTANCES AS A PERCENTAGE OF GDP

This section highlights the contributions of remittances to the GDP of selected countries and territories in the Caribbean, as well as recent changes in 2020 and 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Figure 11.1: Migrant remittances received as a proportion (%) of total GDP, selected Caribbean countries / territories, 2017-2022

Sources: KNOMAD World Bank, Personal remittances, received (% of GDP), n.d. [16 Jun. 2023]; KNOMAD World Bank, Migrant and Remittances Data, "Annual Remittances Data (updated as of June 2023)", 2023[55] (World Bank, Washington DC) [19 Jul. 2023].

[55] For the Bahamas, Cuba, Saint Martin (French part), Puerto Rico, British Virgin Islands and United States Virgin Islands were not reported for any of the reference years in Figure 11.1. Estimates for Curaçao, Cayman Islands and Turks and Caicos Islands were not available for 2021, while data for Sint Maarten (Dutch part) were only available through 2018.

11. REMITTANCES

World Bank data on remittances as a proportion of GDP reflect that:

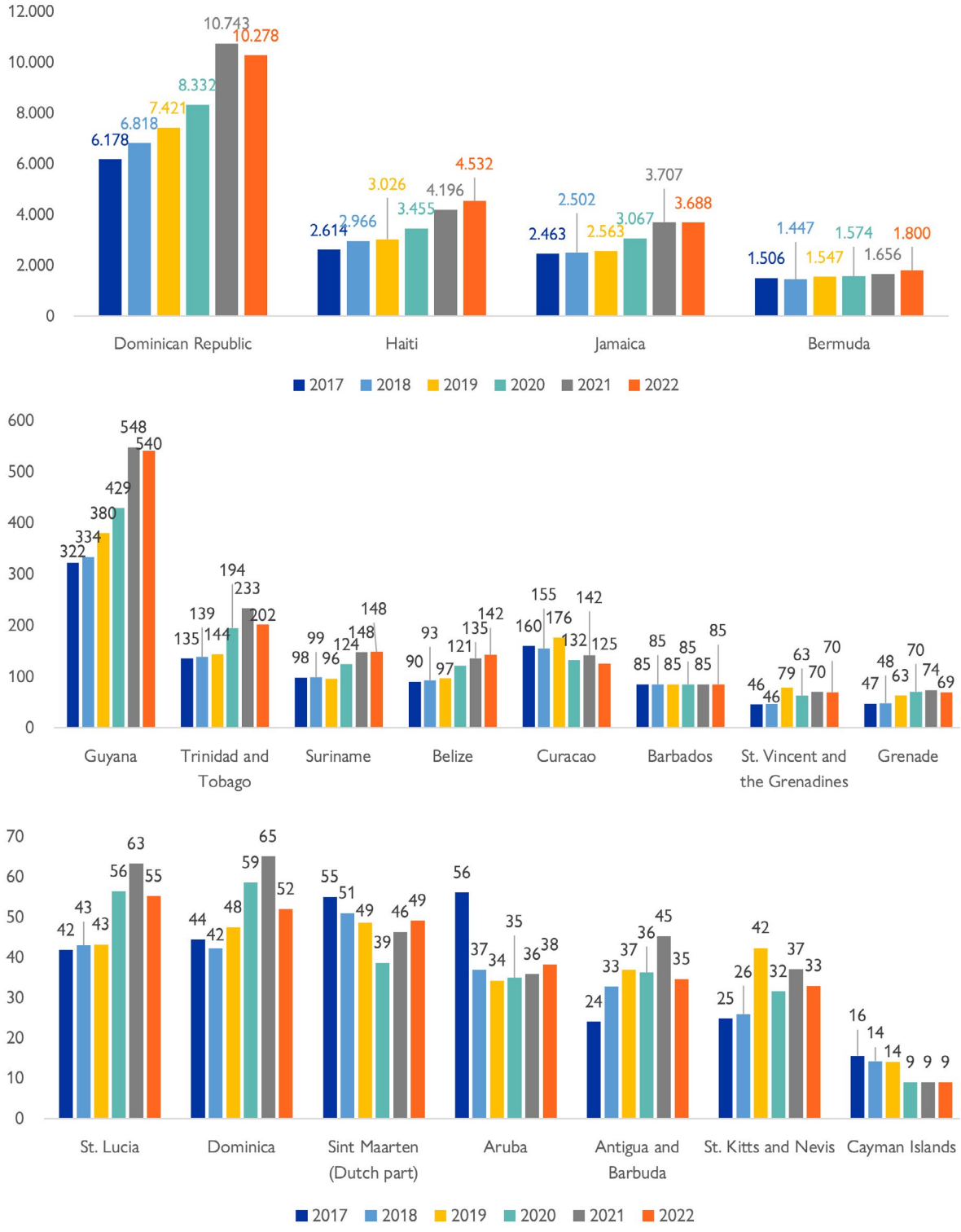
- As of 2022, for the 20 countries/territories in the Caribbean for which data were available, remittances constituted more than 15 per cent of GDP in a total of 3 countries/territories (Bermuda, Haiti, and Jamaica) and more than five per cent of GDP in 5 countries/territories (Guyana, Curacao, St. Vincent and the Grenadine, Dominica, and Dominican Republic).
- Since 2019, the share of GDP derived from remittances has shown an upward trend mainly in Jamaica (increasing by 5.4 percentage points between 2019 and 2022), Haiti (+1.9 percentage points, 2022 vs. 2019), Suriname (+1.7 percentage points, 2022 vs. 2019), Belize (+1 percentage points, 2022 vs. 2019), Dominica (0.7 percentage points 2019 and 2022), and Dominican Republic (increasing by 0.7 percentage points between 2019 and 2022).
- Remittances as a proportion of GDP increased between 2019 and 2020 for Guyana, Belize, Aruba, and Saint Lucia but then retracted slightly back to 2019 levels (or higher) in 2022. Remittances as a proportion of GDP remained relatively constant for Saint Kitts and Nevis, Antigua and Barbuda and Trinidad and Tobago between 2019 and 2022.
- Countries and territories in the region where a downward trend can be seen in the share of GDP derived from remittances between 2019 and 2022 include Curacao (decreasing by 5.9 percentage points between 2019 and 2022), Bermuda (decreasing by 4.9 percentage points between 2019 and 2022), Guyana (decreasing by 4.7 percentage points between 2019 and 2022) and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (decreasing by 1.4 percentage points between 2019 and 2022, albeit noting that levels seen in the latter country between 2019-2022 remain higher than those recorded in 2017 and 2018).
- While estimates at a regional level are not available, the World Bank does produce estimates on remittances as a proportion of GDP for the subregion of Caribbean Small States (CSS) – encompassing Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. In 2022 (the most recent year for which an estimate for the CSS is available, remittances were estimated to constitute 6.5 per cent of the combined GDP for these 13 countries (World Bank, n.d.x). This is compared with 5.6 per cent recorded in 2019, 5.4 per cent in 2018 and 5.6 per cent in 2017 (Ibid), showing the importance of remittances at a sub-regional level in the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic.

11.3 ABSOLUTE VOLUME OF REMITTANCES

To complement the data shown in Figure 11.1 above, Figures 11.2 and 11.3 below shows the breakdown of remittances inflows to countries in the region in absolute terms, highlighting that while remittances may not constitute as high of a proportion of GDP in some countries/territories, they are still significant on a nominal basis. To more accurately represent the magnitude of remittance flows to the top three recipient countries in the region – Haiti, Dominican Republic and Jamaica – these countries graphed separately from the rest of the countries and territories (all of which received less than USD 400 million in remittances in 2022) (the scales between Figures 11.2 and 11.3 differ).

The Caribbean countries and territories below altogether received a total of **USD 21.88 billion in remittances** as of 2022.

Figure 11.2: Migrant remittances received, absolute value in current U.S. Dollar (USD) thousands of millions, Caribbean countries / territories for which data were available, 2017-2022.



Source: KNOMAD World Bank, Migrant and Remittances Data, "Annual Remittances Data (updated as of May 2023)", 2023 (World Bank, Washington DC) [16 Jun. 2023].

11. REMITTANCES

Data on absolute remittance flows to countries and territories in the Caribbean in the most recent five-year period available indicate that:

- The total of nearly USD 20 billion in remittances received in the 20 countries and territories for which data were available represents an increase of 22.6 per cent compared with the USD 16.53 billion received in 2020 and an increase of 38 per cent compared with the USD 14.30 billion received in 2019.
- Of the USD 20 billion received in the above countries and territories in 2022, nearly half (47%) was received in the Dominican Republic alone, while just over one-fifth (20.7%) was received in Haiti and 16.8 per cent in Jamaica.
- Between 2020 and 2022, absolute remittance flows increased in the following countries and territories: Haiti (+31%), Sint Maarten (Dutch part) (27%), Guyana (26%), Dominican Republic (+23%), Jamaica (+20%), Suriname (+19%), Belize (+18%), Aruba (9%), Trinidad and Tobago (4%) and Saint Kitts and Nevis (4%).
- There was very little change in the volume of remittances received in the following countries and territories between 2020 and 2022: Barbados and Cayman Islands.
- The following countries saw a decrease in the volume of remittances received in 2022 compared with 2020: Dominica (-11%), Curaçao (-6%), Antigua and Barbuda (-5%), St. Lucia (-2%) and Grenada (-1%).

11.4 REMITTANCES COMPARED WITH OTHER FORMS OF CAPITAL FLOWS

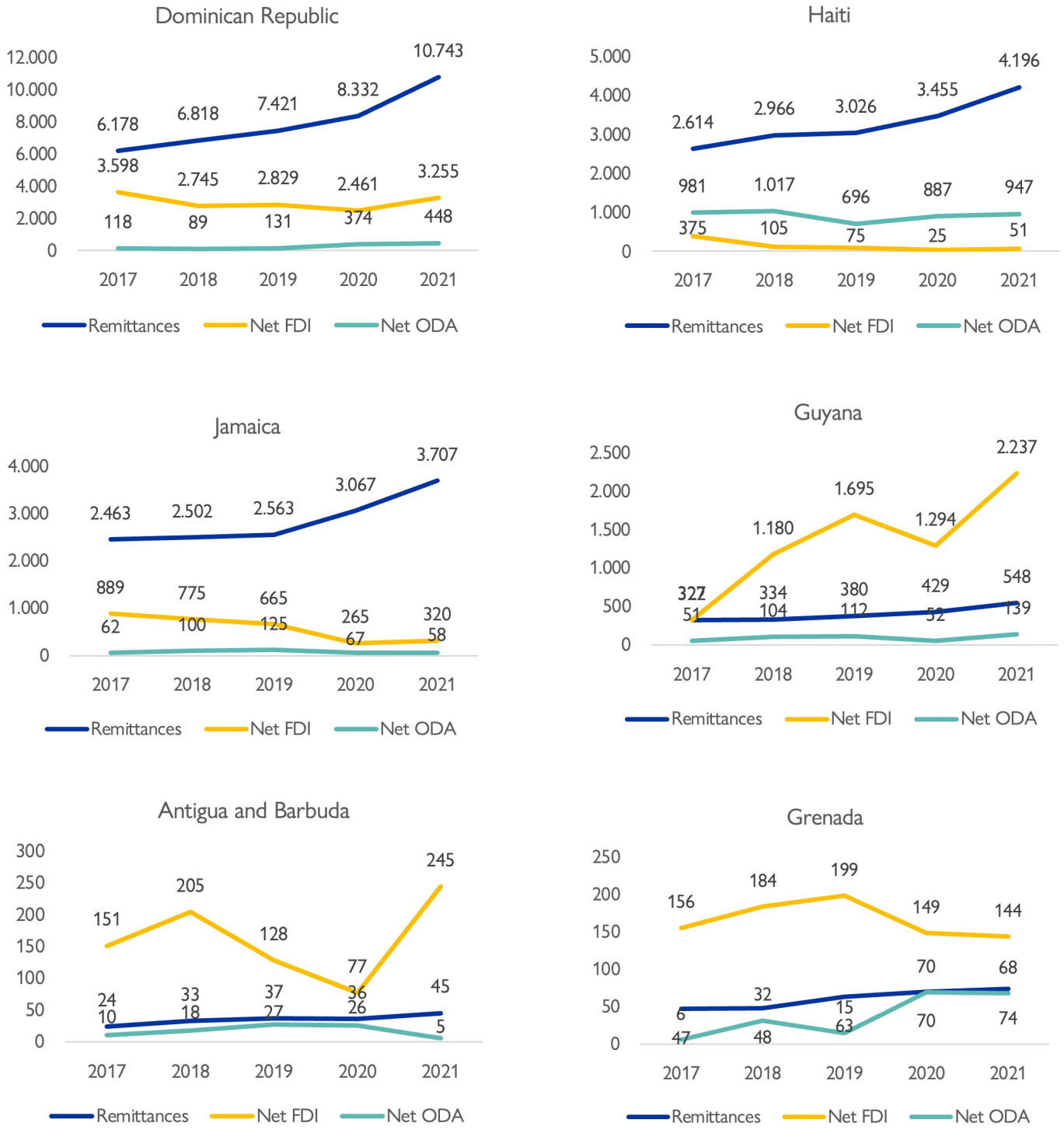
The continued importance of migrant remittances in the Caribbean as a valuable source of foreign exchange is reflected in the fact that they very often outpace foreign direct investment (FDI) and official development assistance (ODA) received in key origin countries. Remittances flows tend to be more evenly distributed across developing countries, and have also proven to be more stable than other capital flows, particularly in times of financial volatility when foreign direct investment might be less reliable (such as during the COVID-19 pandemic) (Ratha and IMF, n.d.; European Parliament, 2014). This is evidenced in Figure 11.4 below, where FDI is shown to exceed inflows of remittances in certain years across selected countries but also shows significantly higher inter-year variation when compared to the former, particularly in 2020 in the first year of the pandemic.

ODA is defined by the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) as financial aid "provided by official agencies, including state and local governments, or by their executive agencies" that is "administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries" (OECD, n.d.x.). Global ODA from official donors reached an all-time high of USD 178.9 billion in 2021 globally as the world continued to grapple with the effects of the COVID-19 crisis (Ibid). Not all countries are eligible to receive ODA – for an updated list of ODA recipients as of 2021, see here.

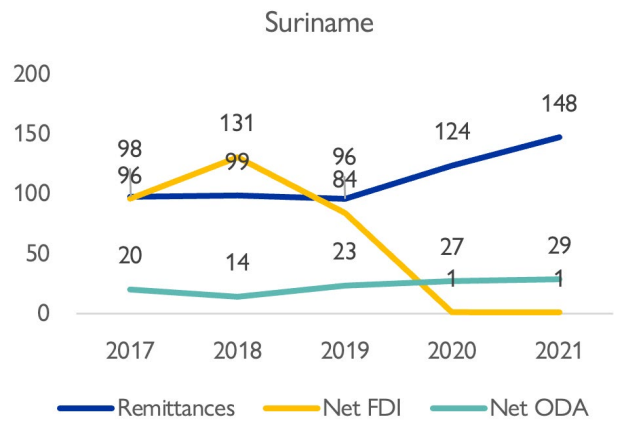
FDI is defined by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) as "an investment involving a long-term relationship and reflecting a lasting interest and control by a resident entity in one economy… in an enterprise resident in an economy other than that of the foreign direct investor" (UNCTAD, 2018).

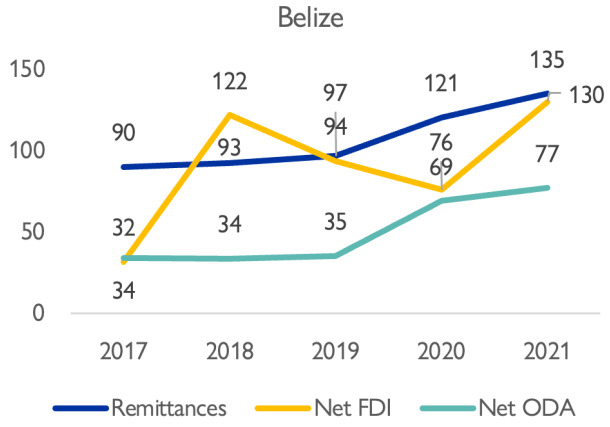
The below figure 11.3 shows the breakdown of ODA and FDI inflows versus remittances in some of the main remittance-receiving countries in the Caribbean (note that not all figures are shown on the same scale).

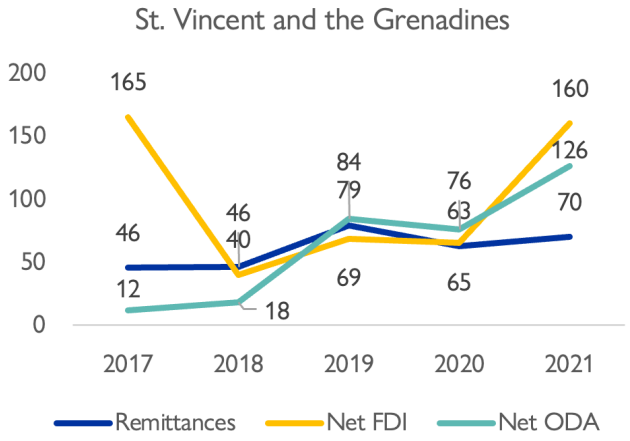
Figure 11.3: Migrant remittances received, vs. total net Official Development Assistance (ODA) disbursements, vs. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) net inflows (Balance of Payments, BoP), current USD millions, selected Caribbean countries, 2017-2021.

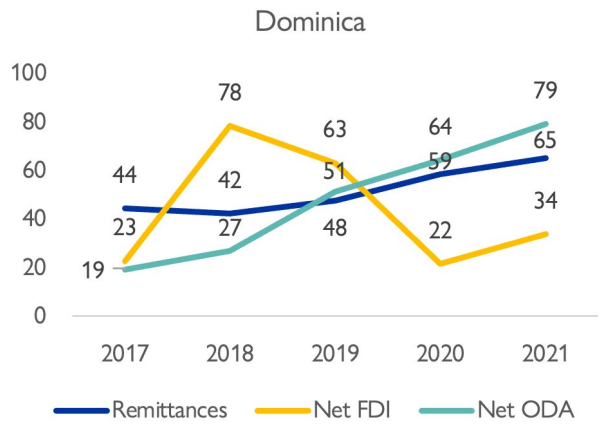


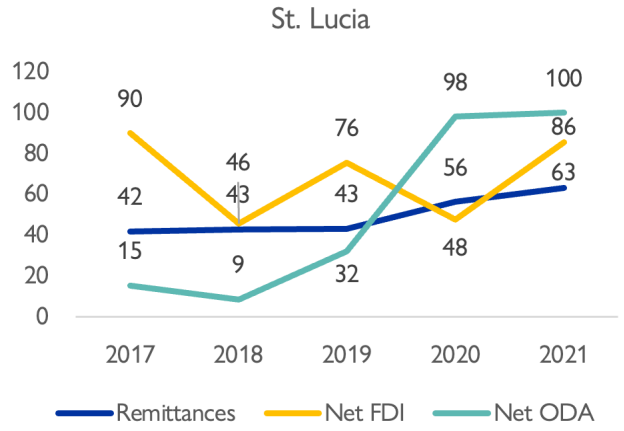
11. REMITTANCES











Sources: OECD, Aid (ODA) disbursement to countries and regions [DAC2a], n.d. [19 Jun. 2023]; World Bank, Foreign direct investment, net inflows (BoP, current US$), n.d. [19 Jun 2023]; KNOMAD World Bank, Migrant and Remittances Data, "Annual Remittances Data (updated as of May 2023)", 2023[60] (World Bank, Washington DC) [19 Jun. 2023].

11. REMITTANCES

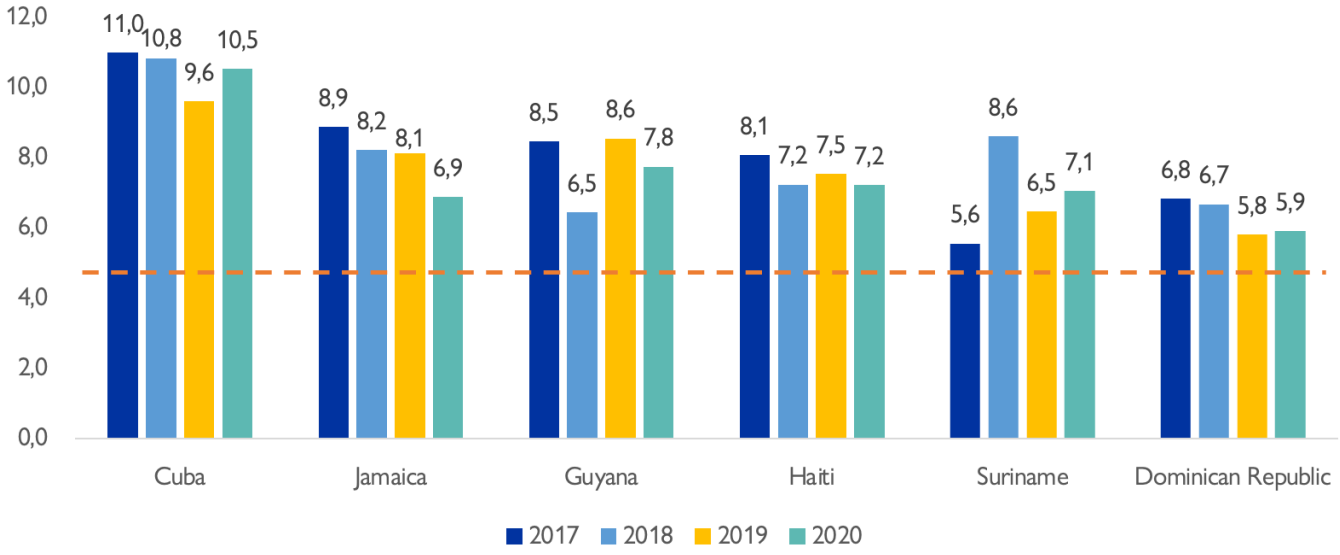
When comparing data on remittances with official net ODA and FDI inflows, the following trends may be observed:

- For the 11 countries above, the main source of external capital in 2020 and 2021 was remittances for six countries: Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Haiti, Dominica, Belize, and Suriname. For Jamaica, Dominican Republic, and Haiti this is a trend since 2017 at least.
- On a cumulative basis, the total quantity of remittances received between 2017 and 2021 outnumbered the total combined quantity of net ODA and FDI received in the same period in the following countries: Jamaica (cumulative remittances received in this period were 4.3 times greater than ODA and FDI inflows combined), Haiti (3.2 times greater), Dominican Republic (2.5 times greater), and Suriname (1.3 times greater).
- A steep decrease in FDI inflows between 2019 and 2020 can be observed across all countries included in Figure 11.4, due to the economic fallout and uncertainty generated by the COVID-19 pandemic (UNCTAD, 2021). This is in line with the rest of the world, which witnessed a 42 per cent overall decline in FDI in 2020 compared to 2019 (Ibid). In 2021 all the countries increased their FDI inflow but two (Suriname and Grenada).
- On the other hand, remittances showed significantly more resilience, for the period 2019-2021 with decreases witnessed in only two of the 11 countries shown above (Antigua and Barbuda and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in 2020).
- Levels of net ODA received in the above 11 countries were dwarfed by both FDI and remittances in virtually all countries except for Haiti, where ODA outpaced FDI in this period. The same situation occurs in Dominica, St. Lucia, and Suriname for 2020-2021.

The demonstrated importance of remittances as a vital form of external capital for many countries in the region also underscores the need to reduce as much as possible the barriers that migrants face in sending money home as well as the obstacles that communities of origin face in receiving money. One of the most prominent barriers is the cost associated with sending and receiving transfers. SDG Goal 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries, target 10.c commits to, "by 2030, reduce to less than three per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than five per cent." This means that it should be possible for remitters to send money to the beneficiary for an average cost of five per cent or less of the amount sent in any specific corridor. Remittance costs can range from the fee charged by the sending agent typically paid by the sender, as well as a fee to convert currencies.

The following Figure 11.4 shows the average price of sending remittances to selected countries in the region for which data were available.

Figure 11.4: Average transaction cost (as % of transfer) of sending remittances to selected countries in the Caribbean, Quarter 4 2019 – Quarter 3 2020



Source: World Bank, Remittance Prices Worldwide (Receiving Countries), n.d. [20 Jun. 2023].

Based on the most recent data available (up through 2020), the following observations can be made:

- In none of the above cases or quarters did average prices to send remittances (as a percentage of the transfer) fall below the maximum threshold established in in target SDG 10.c.
- The countries that have been closest to the goal SDG 10.c. are Suriname for 2017 and the Dominican Republic in 2019, however, like the rest of the countries, there have been variations that move them away from the objective.
- Cuba and the Dominican Republic registered a downward trend in the percentage cost of remittances to these countries between 2017 and 2019, however, both register an increase in 2020 (0.9 and 0.1, respectively, percentage points more than in 2019).
- Between 2019 and 2020, there has been a percentage decrease in the cost of remittances for three countries: Jamaica (-1.2%), Guyana (-0.9%), and Haiti (-0.3%).

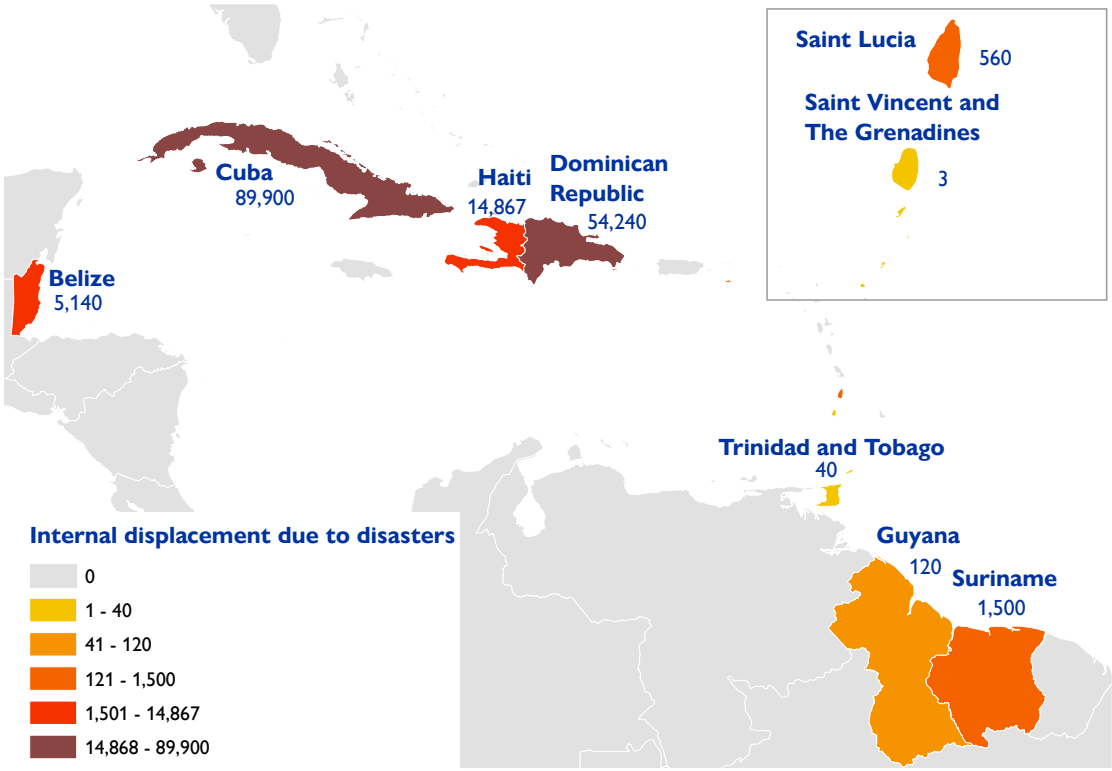
12. NATURAL HAZARDS AND DISPLACEMENT

12.1 KEY DATA ON NATURAL HAZARDS AND DISPLACEMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN

Each year, in addition to significant effects on economies, livelihoods, habitats, food security systems, key infrastructure and other fundamental sectors, thousands of people are displaced due to the impact of rapid-onset natural hazards in the Caribbean. In per capita terms, many Caribbean SIDS are amongst the most vulnerable countries/territories in the world to disaster-related displacement in the context of rapid-onset natural hazards (IADB, n.d.x.). There is also broad consensus that extreme weather events such as tropical storms, floods, droughts and other phenomena which occur in the region will likely increase in frequency and intensity in the coming decades (ibid.).

Given the broadscale impacts on human mobility and displacement in the Caribbean, this section presents key data and analysis on trends and models of internal displacement due to disasters in the context of rapid-onset natural hazards (the section does not cover conflict-related internal displacement). The information is derived from data collected and maintained by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), which monitors displacement across the world caused by conflicts and disasters. Estimates are sourced from government agencies, UN organizations, IOM DTM, humanitarian clusters, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and local authorities whenever possible. When these priority sources cannot be accessed, secondary and tertiary sources are used (IDMC, n.d.x).[56]

Figure 12.1: Map of new internal displacements caused by natural hazards in the Caribbean in 2022 by country / territory



Source: Own elaboration, based on data from Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), "Disaster events 2008-2021 (new displacement) per hazard type", n.d. [23 May 2022].

Note: This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown, and designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

[56] For additional information on IDMC methodologies, see here. Examples of secondary sources include international and local NGOs, civil society and human rights organizations and academia, while tertiary sources include media and affected populations.

Figure 12.2: Characteristics of new internal displacements caused by natural hazards in the Caribbean, 2012-2022

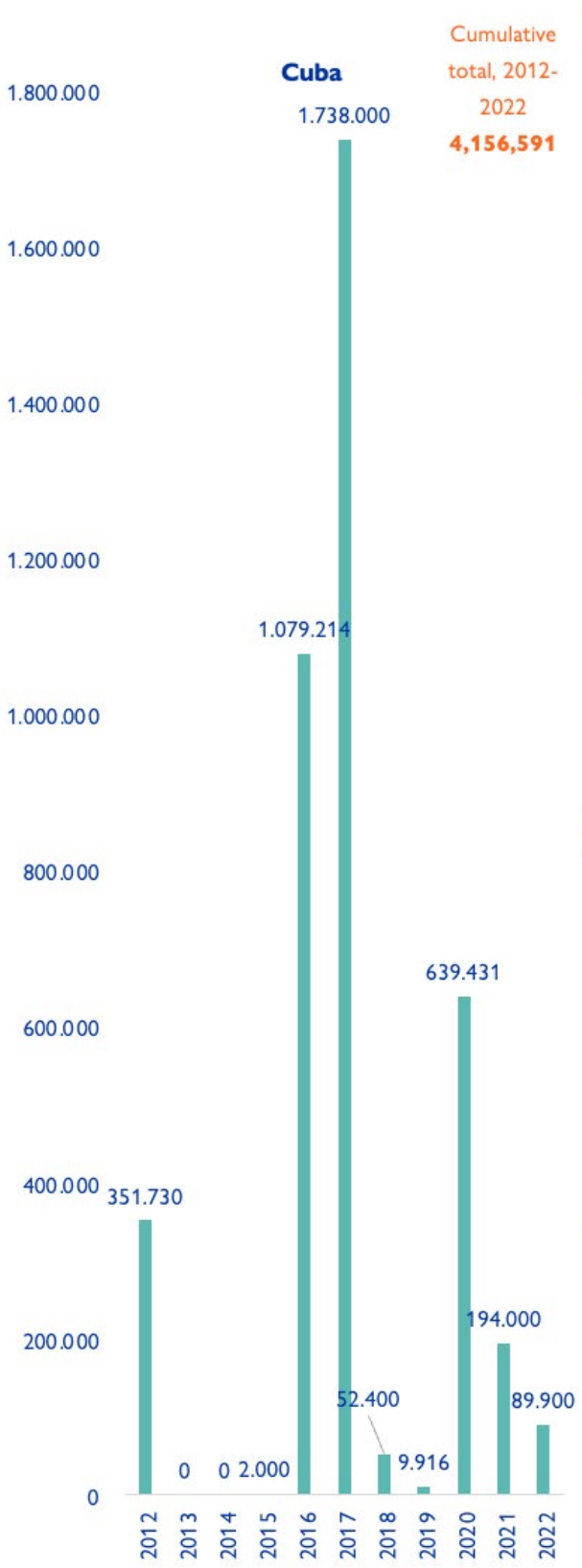
5.3 million new internal displacements caused by natural hazards were registered in the Caribbean in the 11-year period between 2012 and 2022

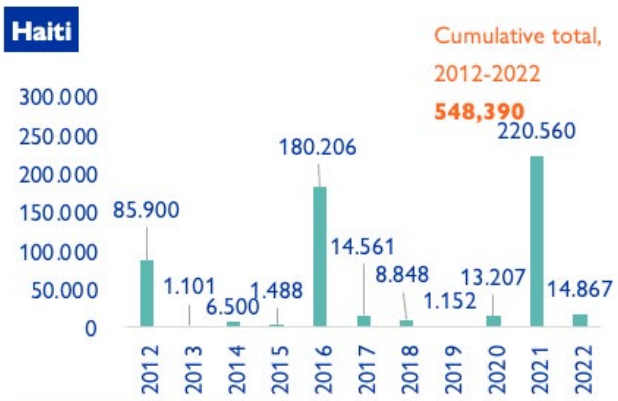
By year and quantity of countries/territories affected, 2012-2021		
Year	No. of countries / territories affected	Total no. of new displacements
2012	4	483,013
2013	8	19,282
2014	2	17,941
2015	6	35,051
2016	10	1,322,876
2017	19	1,984,324
2018	10	90,474
2019	11	26,473
2020	8	701,384
2021	9	455,097
2022	9	166,370
Overall		**5,302,285**

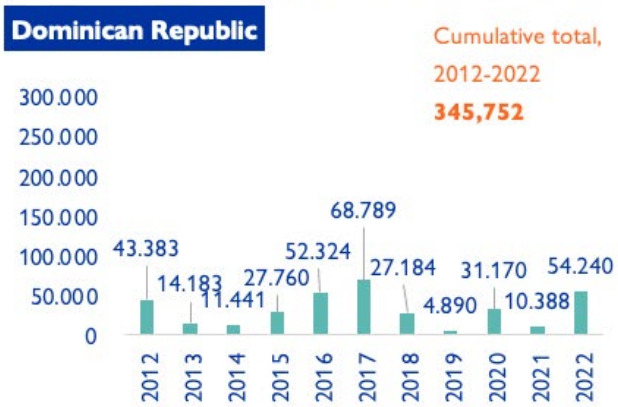
By number of hazard events (left) and proportion of new displacements (%) caused by hazard category (right)				
Year	Weather-related		Geophysical	
2012	13	100%	0	0%
2013	10	100%	0	0%
2014	4	100%	0	0%
2015	8	100%	0	0%
2016	18	100%	0	0%
2017	38	100%	0	0%
2018	23	91%	3	9%
2019	16	100%	0	0%
2020	23	98%	2	2%
2021	13	47%	2	53%
2022	17	94%	1	6%
Overall	**183**	**96%**	**8**	**4%**

By proportion of new displacements caused by each hazard type, by year								
Year	Total	Storm	Flood	Earthquake	Volcanic Eruption	Wildfire	Dry mass movement	Wet mass movement
2012	483,013	93%	7%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
2013	19,282	94%	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
2014	17,941	62%	38%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
2015	35,051	31%	69%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
2016	1,322,876	99%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
2017	1,984,324	98%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
2018	90,474	72%	18%	10%	<1%	<1%	<1%	0%
2019	26,473	99%	1%		0%	0%	0%	0%
2020	701,384	98%	<1%	2%	0%	0%	0%	<1%
2021	455,097	45%	2%	48%	5%	0%	0%	0%
2022	166,370	78%	16%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Overall	**5,302,285**	**84%**	**11%**	**5%**	**<1%**	**<1%**	**<1%**	**<1%**

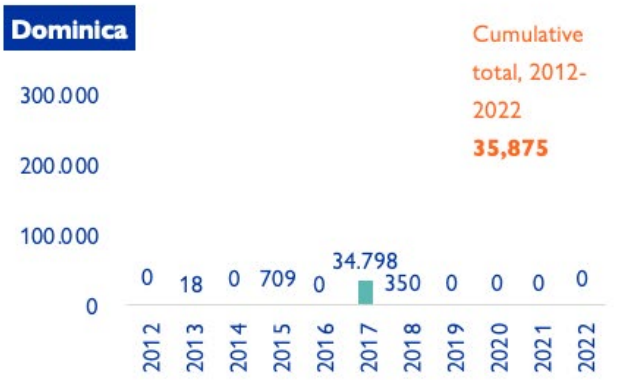
Source: IDMC, "Disaster events 2008-2022 (new displacement) per hazard type", n.d. [22 June 2023].


Cuba
Cumulative total, 2012-2022
4,156,591
1.800.000
1.600.000
1.400.000
1.200.000
1.000.000
800.000
600.000
400.000
200.000
0
351.730
0
0
2.000
1.079.214
1.738.000
52.400
9.916
639.431
194.000
89.900
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022


Haiti
Cumulative total, 2012-2022
548,390
300.000
250.000
200.000
150.000
100.000
50.000
0
85.900
1.101
6.500
1.488
180.206
14.561
8.848
1.152
13.207
220.560
14.867
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022


Dominican Republic
Cumulative total, 2012-2022
345,752
300.000
250.000
200.000
150.000
100.000
50.000
0
43.383
14.183
11.441
27.760
52.324
68.789
27.184
4.890
31.170
10.388
54.240
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022


Puerto Rico
Cumulative total, 2012-2021
98 314
300.000
200.000
100.000
0
0
0
0
0
86.406
400
240
11.268
0
0
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022


Dominica
Cumulative total, 2012-2022
35,875
300.000
200.000
100.000
0
0
18
0
709
0
34.798
350
0
0
0
0
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022

12. NATURAL HAZARDS AND DISPLACEMENT

The information presented in the above figures for displacements by country/territory is intended to accurately visualize new disaster-related displacements in areas most affected in the region, by showing data on the same scale. For this reason, the figure for Cuba is significantly larger than for the other top five countries/territories in the region (Haiti, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and Dominica).

Others												
Country	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	TOTAL (2012-2022)
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0	2,325	0	0	338	20	0	232	0	23,032	3	**25,950**
Bahamas	0	0	0	2,842	3,500	1,565	230	9,480	0	0	0	**17,977**
Suriname	0	300	0	0	0	6,000	0	0	0	6,500	1,500	**14,300**
Sint Maarten (Dutch part)	0	0	0	0	0	12,706	0	0	0	0	0	**12,706**
Saint Martin (French part)	0	0	0	0	0	10,582	0	0	0	0	0	**10,582**
Belize	0	126	0	252	3,500	0	0	0	6,273	0	0	**10,151**
British Virgin Islands	0	0	0	0	0	6,000	0	0	0	0	0	**6,000**
Jamaica	2,000	0	0	0	3,524	29	7	0	2	16	0	**5,578**
United States Virgin Islands	0	0	0	0	0	2,311	0	0	0	0	0	**2,311**
Saint Lucia	0	1,200	0	0	130	0	0	25	0	0	560	**1,915**
Guyana	0	0	0	0	0	195	1,168	0	0	220	120	**1,703**
Antigua and Barbuda	0	0	0	0	0	1,423	0	0	0	0	0	**1,423**
Trinidad and Tobago	0	29	0	0	0	200	860	48	33	0	40	**1,210**
Barbados	0	0	0	0	90	0	0	102	0	380	0	**572**
Anguilla	0	0	0	0	0	500	0	0	0	0	0	**500**
Grenada	0	0	0	0	0	146	27	26	0	0	0	**199**
Turks and Caicos Islands	0	0	0	0	50	60	0	0	0	0	0	**110**
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0	0	0	0	0	33	0	0	0	0	0	**33**
Martinique	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	**2**

Source: IDMC, "Disaster events 2008-2021 (new displacement) per hazard type", n.d. [22 June 2023].

12. NATURAL HAZARDS AND DISPLACEMENT

By principal hazards causing new internal displacement events each year	
Year	**Principal hazards and countries / territories impacted (in no particular order)**
2012	Hurricane Sandy (Jamaica, Cuba Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Cuba).
2013	Tropical Storm Chantal and Tropical Depression Gabrielle (Dominican Republic); Tropical Storm Barry (Belize); floods in Haiti; storms in Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; floods in Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.
2014	Tropical Storm Crystobal, other storms and floods in the Dominican Republic; floods in Haiti.
2015	Tropical Storm / Hurricane Erika (Dominica, Dominican Republic); Hurricane Joaquin (Dominican Republic); floods in Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic and Haiti.
2016	Hurricane Matthew (Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Turks and Caicos Islands, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) and Hurricane Earl (Belize); floods in Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; tornado in Haiti.
2017	Hurricane Irma (Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Martin (French part), Puerto Rico, Sint Maarten (Dutch part), Turks and Caicos Islands, British Virgin Islands, United States Virgin Islands); Hurricane Maria (Dominica, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, United States Virgin Islands); floods in Dominican Republic; Tropical Storm Isaac and floods in Dominica; subtropical storm Alberto in Cuba; wildfires in the Bahamas.
2018	Hurricane Michael (Cuba); landslides, earthquake, and floods in Haiti; volcanic eruption, landslides and floods in Trinidad and Tobago, Tropical Storm Beryl (Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico); heavy rains in Jamaica, floods in Guyana.
2019	Tropical Storm / Hurricane Dorian (Barbados, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Bahamas); tornado in Cuba; storms in Dominican Republic; storms and floods in Haiti; Tropical storm Karen in Trinidad and Tobago and Puerto Rico, floods in Trinidad and Tobago and Martinique.
2020	Hurricane Eta (Belize, Cuba, Dominican Republic); Hurricane Iota (Belize); Tropical Storm Nana (Belize); Hurricane Isaias (Bahamas, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Puerto Rico); Hurricane Delta (Cuba); tornado and floods in Cuba; Hurricane Laura (Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Puerto Rico); Hurricane Zeta (Jamaica); Tropical Storm Gonzalo, tornados and landslides in Trinidad and Tobago; earthquakes in Puerto Rico; floods in the Dominican Republic.
2021	Hurricane Elsa (Barbados, Dominican Republic, Cuba); Hurricane Ida (Cuba); Tropical Storm Fred (Dominican Republic); Hurricane Grace (Jamaica, Cayman Islands, Dominican Republic, Haiti); Floods in Guyana, Suriname, and Haiti; Volcanic eruption in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Earthquake in Haiti.
2022	Hurricane Ian, floods and wildfire in Cuba; Hurricane Fiona and floods in Dominican Republic; Hurricane Lisa (Belize); Floods in Suriname; Earthquake and floods in Haiti

Source: IDMC, "Disaster events 2008-2021 (new displacement) per hazard type", n.d. [22 June 2023].

12. NATURAL HAZARDS AND DISPLACEMENT

IDMC data presented in Figure 12.2 reveal a wealth of information about dynamics of displacement due to natural hazards in the Caribbean over the 11-year period spanning 2012-2022:

- A total of 5,302,285 new internal displacements due to natural hazards were recorded in the Caribbean region between 2012 and 2022. There was an average of 482,026 new internal displacements due to natural hazards recorded in the region each year for the same period.
- The number of new internal displacements recorded in Cuba alone in this eleven-year period was almost four times greater than the total number of new internal displacements recorded in all other Caribbean countries and territories combined in the same period. Many of the displacements in Cuba are understood to be due to coordinated mass evacuations conducted by the government to mitigate the impacts of natural hazards (Aguirre, 2005).
- Overall, 78 per cent of all new internal displacements registered in the Caribbean between 2012 and 2022 occurred in Cuba, 10 per cent in Haiti, seven per cent in the Dominican Republic, two per cent in Puerto Rico, less than one per cent in Dominica and two per cent (112,862) in other countries and territories.
- On average, nine countries and territories in the region were affected by internal displacements due to natural hazards each year between 2012 and 2022.
- Displacement figures vary significantly by year, depending on the nature, severity, and location of natural hazards– for example, under 18,000 new internal displacements due to disasters were registered in 2014, compared with nearly two million in 2017.
- The year 2017 demonstrated the sheer depth of displacement risk in the Caribbean, with three major hurricanes – Harvey, Irma and Maria – leading to the internal displacement of millions of people in a single month (Platform on Disaster Displacement, n.d.). In fact, Hurricane Irma was the largest disaster in the entire world in 2017 (UNICEF, 2019).
- Most internal displacements due to natural hazards in the Caribbean are weather-related – causing 95 per cent of all new disaster-related displacements recorded between 2012-2022. Just five per cent of new disaster-related displacements in this period were caused by geophysical natural hazards.
- Most disaster-related displacements in the eleven-year period under analysis were caused by storms (84%), floods (11%), earthquakes (5%), and a small proportion were caused by other types of hazards (<1%).
- Most new internal displacements were recorded between June and November, coinciding with the Caribbean tropical cyclone (hurricane) season.

To shed more light on the potential impact of natural hazards on internal displacement in the region, the below exploratory analysis presents the largest number of individuals displaced in a given year between 2012 and 2022 in selected Caribbean countries and territories in comparison to their total estimated population in the same year (per UNDESA). These figures should be interpreted as rough estimates, considering that the same individual could have been displaced multiple times in the same year.

12. NATURAL HAZARDS AND DISPLACEMENT

Table 12.1: Largest percentage (%) of the entire population displaced due to natural hazards in any given year between 2012-2022, selected Caribbean countries and territories

Country	Highest recorded number of new internal displacements due to natural hazards recorded in any given year between 2012-2021, by country/territory and year	Total population (in same year as year with highest no. of new internal displacements)	Estimated proportion (%) of the population internally displaced by natural hazards in each country/ territory's most prominent year of new displacements between 2012-2022
Dominica	34,798 (2017)	71,991	**48%**
Sint Maarten (Dutch part)	12,706 (2017)	42,882	**30%**
Saint Martin (French part)	10,582 (2017)	38,659	**27%**
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	23,032 (2021)	110,947	**21%**
British Virgin Islands	6,000 (2017)	30,237	**20%**
Cuba	1,738,000 (2017)	11,326,616	**15%**
Puerto Rico	86,406 (2017)	1,850,529	**5%**
Anguilla	500 (2017)	15,002	**3%**
Haiti	220,304 (2021)	11,402,533	**2%**
Bahamas	9,480 (2019)	393,248	**2%**
Belize	6,273 (2020)	397,621	**2%**
United States Virgin Islands	2,311 (2017)	104,423	**2%**
Antigua and Barbuda	1,423 (2018)	97,928	**2%**
Suriname	6,500 (2021)	586,634	**1%**
Dominican Republic	68,789 (2017)	10,847,904	**<1%**
Jamaica	3,524 (2016)	2,961,161	**<1%**
Saint Lucia	1,200 (2013)	183,629	**<1%**
Trinidad and Tobago	860 (2018)	1,399,491	**<1%**
Guyana	1,168 (2018)	438,413	**<1%**
Grenada	146 (2017)	112,519	**<1%**
Barbados	376 (2021)	287,371	**<1%**
Turks and Caicos Islands	60 (2017)	38,718	**<1%**
Saint Kitts and Nevis	33 (2017)	53,192	**<1%**
Martinique	2 (2019)	375,265	**<1%**

Sources: UNDESA, World Population Prospects Revision 2019 – Total Population – Both Sexes, 2019; IDMC, "Disaster events 2008-2022 (new displacement) per hazard type", n.d. [22 June 2023].

When analyzing internal displacements due to natural hazards in proportional terms to total country/territory population during the ten-year period between 2012 and 2021, the analysis reveals that:

- A significant proportion of the entire population of certain Caribbean countries and territories were internally displaced at some point between 2012-2021 – reaching as high as approximately 48 per cent in Dominica in 2017, 30 per cent in Sint Maarten (Dutch part) in 2017, 27 per cent in Saint Martin (French part) in 2017 and 21 per cent in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in 2021.
- Many countries and territories that did not rank among the highest in new internal displacements due to natural hazards in absolute terms (see Figure 22.2) featured at the top of the list when taken in proportional terms alongside population size, for example – Saint Martin (French part), Sint Maarten (Dutch part) and British Virgin Islands.

Table 12.2: Stock of internally displaced persons (IDPs) due to natural hazards estimated in the Caribbean as of the end of 2022.

Country	Stock no. of individuals living in displacement due to natural hazards
Cuba	89,900
Dominican Republic	54,240
Haiti	14,867
Suriname	1,500
Saint Lucia	560
Others	163
Overall	**166,370**

- Over 166,000 individuals were estimated to be living in internal displacement due to natural hazards across three Caribbean countries as of the end of 2022.
- Given the scale of new internal displacements that occur each year, it can be deduced that most displacements due to rapid-onset natural hazards in the Caribbean do not lead to situations of protracted displacement (IDPs). One exception is in Haiti, where 99 per cent of the entire stock of IDPs due to natural hazards in the Caribbean were living as of the end of 2022. Most IDPs due to natural hazards in Haiti as of the end of 2022 were displaced by the country's 2021 earthquake (magnitude 7.2 which struck 14 August 2021, affecting 500,000 people primarily in the southwest) (Haiti Shelter Cluster, 2021) and the 2010 earthquake, which destroyed 105,000 homes and damaged more than 208,000, affecting three million people and displacing 1.5 million, per IOM figures (Benet, 2020). Additionally, the number of disaster related IDPs in Haiti is likely an undercount, given that IOM estimates (as agreed with the Government of Haiti) do not include informal camps and settlements that developed in and around the country's cities during the emergency response and after the crisis (Ibid).

12.2 RISK MODELS FOR NATURAL HAZARDS, DISASTERS AND DISPLACEMENT

Given the significant human, financial, environmental and infrastructural impacts that sudden-onset natural hazards have on the Caribbean and around the world, various actors have developed risk models to try to forecast different dimensions of risk associated with these types of hazards and their impact on economies, on humanitarian crises and on human displacement.

The following section highlights three key risk models which shed light on natural hazards, disasters and displacement in the Caribbean. An analysis of the information derived from these three models might help in determining which countries and territories in the region are most at risk, the scale of risk at the national and regional level, the types of natural hazards that pose the greatest amount of risk, and whether or not risk appears to be increasing, decreasing or remaining the same. This information can in turn help to inform prevention, preparedness and response to disasters in the future.

i. Global Displacement Risk Model

The Global Displacement Risk Model created by IDMC presents data on displacement risk associated with sudden-onset disasters, assisting stakeholders in understanding the likelihood of such population movements taking place in the future (IDMC, n.d.x.). The model estimates the average expected number of displacements per year for sudden-onset hazards, measured by the hazard (phenomenon that may cause displacement) combined with exposure (people and buildings in hazard-prone areas) and vulnerability (how buildings react to different hazard intensities) (IDMC, n.d.x.)[57]

[57] For more information on methodologies and limitations, visit the related IDMC webpage here.

The below table 12.2 shows estimated risk of future displacement for selected countries and territories in the Caribbean.

Table 12.3: Average expected number of new displacements per year due to sudden-onset hazards, selected Caribbean countries/territories.

By proportion of new displacements caused by each hazard type, by year						
Country	Total expected no. of displacements per year	Earthquake	Storm surge	Tsunami	Cyclonic wind	Flood
Antigua and Barbuda	**3,366**	268	983	1	2,114	-
Cuba	**23,306**	-	17,674	-	5,532	724
Dominica	**2,393**	285	1,376	-	732	-
Dominican Republic	**41,777**	11,609	3,489	23	18,863	7,793
Guyana	**3,015**	-	-	-	-	3,015
Haiti	**50,469**	26,167	4,562	61	7,718	11,961
Jamaica	**14,903**	1,136	4,787	4	8,431	545
Puerto Rico*	**53,405**	2,633	6,370	80	44,171	151
Saint Lucia	**2,395**	151	1,492	-	752	-
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	**1,086**	58	879	-	149	-
Suriname	**2,916**	-	-	-	-	2,916
Trinidad and Tobago	**7,147**	6,876	230	-	30	11

Source: IDMC, Global Displacement Risk Model, n.d. [accessed 22 June 2023].
Note: Data for Barbados, Grenada and Saint Kitts and Nevis were not available. The * symbol indicates an overseas territory.

Models for future displacement due to sudden-onset hazards in the Caribbean would suggest that:

- The Caribbean region will likely see hundreds of thousands of new displacements each year due to natural hazards, with upwards of 236,000 estimated to occur per year, on average, in the 14 countries and territories included in Table 12.1.
- Cyclonic winds (caused by storms) are expected to be the main absolute drivers of new internal displacements across the Caribbean countries/territories included above, followed by storm surge and earthquakes.

ii. Global Climate Risk Index

The Global Climate Risk Index (CRI), released annually by Germanwatch, is a rank of countries and territories most impacted by extreme weather events. The CRI scores are derived from the MunichRe NatCatSERVICE data set on the impacts of extreme weather events and associated socio-economic data. The score is a composite indicator based on average fatalities overall, average fatalities per 100,000 inhabitants, average losses in millions of USD (at PPP) and average losses per unit of GDP in per cent (%). The CRI is designed to indicate a level of exposure and vulnerability to extreme events, which countries may understand as "warnings in order to be prepared for more frequent and/or more severe events in the future" (Germanwatch, 2021, p.4). Data were analyzed for a total of 180 countries in 2021. Notably, the index is not a comprehensive climate vulnerability scoring, and by focusing on extreme weather events (such as storms, floods, etc.) it does not consider slow-onset processes (such as ocean warming or sea-level rise) (ibid.).[58] Below is the list of Caribbean countries and territories for which a CRI score was available in 2021, along with their respective global rank in terms of risk. Notably, data on Cuba were not available amongst the scored countries and territories.

Table 12.4: Climate Risk Index score and global ranking (out of 180) for selected Caribbean countries and territories for the period 2000-2019

Country/territory	Global ranking	CRI Score
Puerto Rico*	1	7.17
Haiti	3	13.67
Bahamas	6	27.67
Dominica	11	33.00
Grenada	24	39.67
Belize	33	48.67
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	48	59.17
Dominican Republic	50	59.50
Saint Lucia	51	60.33
Jamaica	54	63.83
Antigua and Barbuda	56	64.50
Guyana	119	108.17
Saint Kitts and Nevis	130	116.00
Barbados	148	135.33
Trinidad and Tobago	159	148.00
Suriname	171	164.00

Source: Germanwatch (Eckstein et al.), Briefing paper: Global Climate Risk Index, 2021: Who suffers most from extreme weather events? Weather-related loss events in 2019 and 2000-2019, 2021.

Note: The * symbol indicates a dependent area or overseas territory.

58 For additional information on methodologies and limitations, see the 2021 report here.

12. NATURAL HAZARDS AND DISPLACEMENT

The 2021 global CRI results indicate that:

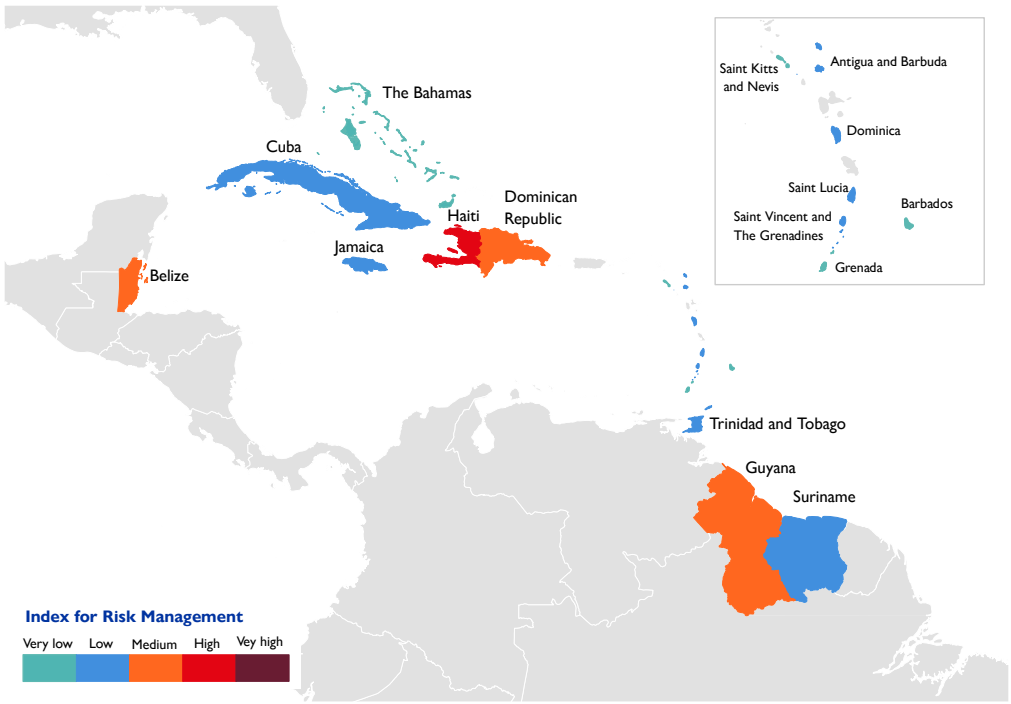
- Four Caribbean countries and territories were among the top 15 most impacted by extreme weather events around the world between 2000 and 2019.
- Eight Caribbean countries and territories were among the top 50 most impacted by extreme weather events around the world between 2000 and 2019.

ii. INFORM Risk Index

The INFORM Risk Index, a multi-stakeholder forum led by the Joint Research Center of the European Commission, is a global tool to understand the humanitarian crises and disasters based on 80 different indicators which measure hazards and people's exposure to them (Inter-Agency Standing Committee and the European Commission, 2021). The components of risk are divided into three dimensions: (1) hazards and exposure – including natural[59] and human[60]; (2) vulnerability – including socioeconomic[61] and vulnerable groups[62]; and (3) lack of coping capacity – both institutional[63] and infrastructural[64](Ibid). Based on this composite index, a risk profile is created for each country, with a rating between zero and 10.[65] In addition to the annual report (see the most recent report for 2021), the EU operates an online map tool which allows users to visualize the overall INFORM risk index as well as the indices for the above three categories, separately.

Below is a mapping of the INFORM Risk Index results as of mid-2022 for UN Member Countries in the Caribbean, shown on a scale of five categories **between very low (0-2), low (2.1-3.5), medium (3.6-5.0), high (5.1-6.5) and very high risk (6.6-10).**

Figure 12.3: Map of INFORM Index for Risk Management in UN Member Countries in the Caribbean, mid-(2022)



Source: Own elaboration, based on: Inter-Agency Standing Committee and European Commission, INFORM Risk model map tool, n.d. [accessed 15 May 2022].

[59] Including earthquakes, tsunamis, droughts, floods, tropical cyclones and epidemics.
[60] Current conflict intensity and project conflict risk
[61] Development and deprivation (50%), inequality (25%) and aid dependency (25%).
[62] Uprooted people and other vulnerable groups.
[63] Disaster Risk Reduction and Governance capacities.
[64] Communication, physical infrastructure and access to health system.
[65] The INFORM Risk Index, being a composite index, is a simplified a view of reality and should be interpreted alongside other sources. Detailed information on the limitations of the tool and methodologies is available on the website here

Furthermore, below is the breakdown of the overall INFORM Risk and indices on hazards and exposure, vulnerability and coping capacities for each country. This helps to distinguish the impact of natural hazards from other components that drive risk. For reference, as of mid-2022 the country with the highest risk rating around the world was Somalia (8.8) while the lowest was Singapore (0.6) (Inter-Agency Standing Committee and the European Commission, 2021).

Table 12.5: INFORM Index for Risk Management in UN Member Countries in the Caribbean by country, mid-2022

Haiti					World Ranking Position:	21
Inform Risk Index	**Hazards & exposure index**		**Vulnerability index**		**Lack of coping capacity index**	
	6.4		5.7		7.2	
High **(6.4)**	Natural hazard	**7.7** Very High	Socio-economic vulnerability	**6.6**	Infrastructure	**6.6**
	Human hazard	**5.8**	Vulnerable groups	**4.6**	Institutional	**7.8**
Dominican Republic					**World Ranking Position:**	**61**
Inform Risk Index	**Hazards & exposure index**		**Vulnerability index**		**Lack of coping capacity index**	
	4.1		4.8		4.2	
Medium **(4.6)**	Natural hazard	**6.7** Very High	Socio-economic vulnerability	**3.4**	Infrastructure	**3.0**
	Human hazard	**0.1**	Vulnerable groups	**6.0**	Institutional	**5.3**
Belize					**World Ranking Position:**	**71**
Inform Risk Index	**Hazards & exposure index**		**Vulnerability index**		**Lack of coping capacity index**	
	3.2		4.2		5	
Medium **(4.1)**	Natural hazard	**5.5** High	Socio-economic vulnerability	**3.9**	Infrastructure	**3.9**
	Human hazard	**0.0**	Vulnerable groups	**4.4**	Institutional	**6**
Guyana					**World Ranking Position:**	**89**
Inform Risk Index	**Hazards & exposure index**		**Vulnerability index**		**Lack of coping capacity index**	
	2.2		4.1		5	
Medium **(4.1)**	Natural hazard	**3.9** Medium	Socio-economic vulnerability	**3.9**	Infrastructure	**5.8**
	Human hazard	**0.1**	Vulnerable groups	**4.2**	Institutional	**4.1**
Suriname					**World Ranking Position:**	**103**
Inform Risk Index	**Hazards & exposure index**		**Vulnerability index**		**Lack of coping capacity index**	
	2.3		3.0		5	
Low **(3.3)**	Natural hazard	**4** Medium	Socio-economic vulnerability	**3.5**	Infrastructure	**3.6**
	Human hazard	**0.1**	Vulnerable groups	**2.4**	Institutional	**6.2**

Jamaica						World Ranking Position:	109
Inform Risk Index	**Hazards & exposure index**		**Vulnerability index**		**Lack of coping capacity index**		
Low (3.1)	3.3		2.5		3.5		
	Natural hazard	5.5 High	Socio-economic vulnerability	4.1	Infrastructure	2.9
	Human hazard	0.1	Vulnerable groups	0.6	Institutional	4.1

Dominica						World Ranking Position:	113
Inform Risk Index	**Hazards & exposure index**		**Vulnerability index**		**Lack of coping capacity index**		
Low (3)	2.8		2.5		4		
	Natural hazard	4.9 High	Socio-economic vulnerability	4.2	Infrastructure	3.0
	Human hazard	0.1	Vulnerable groups	0.5	Institutional	4.9

Cuba						World Ranking Position:	121
Inform Risk Index	**Hazards & exposure index**		**Vulnerability index**		**Lack of coping capacity index**		
Low (2.9)	3.3		2.5		2.9		
	Natural hazard	5.5 High	Socio-economic vulnerability	2	Infrastructure	1.6
	Human hazard	0.1	Vulnerable groups	3	Institutional	4

Trinidad and Tobago						World Ranking Position:	128
Inform Risk Index	**Hazards & exposure index**		**Vulnerability index**		**Lack of coping capacity index**		
Low (2.7)	1.8		3.4		3.3		
	Natural hazard	3.3 Low	Socio-economic vulnerability	2	Infrastructure	1.4
	Human hazard	0	Vulnerable groups	4.6	Institutional	4.8

Saint Lucia						World Ranking Position:	127
Inform Risk Index	**Hazards & exposure index**		**Vulnerability index**		**Lack of coping capacity index**		
Low (2.5)	1.4		2.7		4		
	Natural hazard	2.6 Low	Socio-economic vulnerability	3.8	Infrastructure	2.7
	Human hazard	0	Vulnerable groups	1.4	Institutional	5.1

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines					World Ranking Position:	142
Inform Risk Index	**Hazards & exposure index**		**Vulnerability index**		**Lack of coping capacity index**	
	1.4		3		3.3	
Low (2.4)	Natural hazard	2.6 Low	Socio-economic vulnerability	4.2	Infrastructure	2.3
	Human hazard	0	Vulnerable groups	1.7	Institutional	4.2

Antigua and Barbuda					World Ranking Position:	153
Inform Risk Index	**Hazards & exposure index**		**Vulnerability index**		**Lack of coping capacity index**	
	2		1.3		3.7	
Low (2.1)	Natural hazard	3.7 Medium	Socio-economic vulnerability	1.7	Infrastructure	1.5
	Human hazard	0	Vulnerable groups	0.9	Institutional	5.4

Bahamas					World Ranking Position:	155
Inform Risk Index	**Hazards & exposure index**		**Vulnerability index**		**Lack of coping capacity index**	
	1.8		1.5		3.1	
Very Low (2)	Natural hazard	3.3 Low	Socio-economic vulnerability	2.1	Infrastructure	2.2
	Human hazard	0	Vulnerable groups	0.9	Institutional	3.9

Barbados					World Ranking Position:	155
Inform Risk Index	**Hazards & exposure index**		**Vulnerability index**		**Lack of coping capacity index**	
	2.1		1.5		2.5	
Very Low (2)	Natural hazard	3.8 Medium	Socio-economic vulnerability	2.4	Infrastructure	1.7
	Human hazard	0	Vulnerable groups	0.5	Institutional	3.2

Grenade					World Ranking Position:	165
Inform Risk Index	**Hazards & exposure index**		**Vulnerability index**		**Lack of coping capacity index**	
	0.9		1.6		3.8	
Very Low (1.8)	Natural hazard	1.7 Very Low	Socio-economic vulnerability	2.2	Infrastructure	2.6
	Human hazard	0	Vulnerable groups	1	Institutional	4.8

Source: Inter-Agency Standing Committee and European Commission, INFORM Risk model map tool, n.d. [accessed 15 May 2022].

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Saint Kitts and Nevis					World Ranking Position:	165
Inform Risk Index	**Hazards & exposure index**		**Vulnerability index**		**Lack of coping capacity index**	
	1.5		1.4		2.9	
Very Low **(1.8)**	Natural hazard	2.8 Very Low	Socio-economic vulnerability	**1.9**	Infrastructure	**2.5**
	Human hazard	**0**	Vulnerable groups	**0.9**	Institutional	**4.1**

An analysis of indices for the 15 Caribbean countries covered in INFORM's database reveals that:

- While many countries and territories fall within the low or very low-risk category overall, isolating each country/territory's score for natural hazards shows that a significant proportion rank very high, high or medium in this category (nine out of 16, or 56%).
- On the other hand, ratings for human hazards (conflict intensity and conflict risk) were very low for most of the region, indicating that natural hazards were the main components driving risk to humanitarian crises and disasters in the Caribbean.
- Despite high risk for natural hazards, overall risk to humanitarian crises and disasters in the region is relatively low given lower-risk vulnerability profiles and sufficient levels of coping capacity.
- One exception is Haiti, where very high risk to natural hazards is also compounded by moderate risk of human hazards, high socio-economic vulnerability, moderate presence of vulnerable groups and very high lack of infrastructural and institutional coping capacities.

13. SLOW-ONSET ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESSES RELATED TO CLIMATE CHANGE, MOBILITY AND MIGRATION

13.1 THE NEXUS BETWEEN CLIMATE CHANGE, MOBILITY AND MIGRATION IN THE CARIBBEAN

While data on sudden-onset disasters (notably, hurricanes) and their impact on human mobility in the Caribbean are more widely available, displacement and migration related to other, slow-onset processes which affect the region – including sea-level rise, coastal erosion, droughts, rainfall variability, environmental degradation and more – are more difficult to capture. However, slow onset environmental drivers are expected to play an increasingly prominent role in generating migration in the region, particularly internally within countries and particularly from rural areas to cities.

While not a comprehensive review, this section summarizes data and statistics on selected slow-onset processes that are expected currently and, in the future, to impact human mobility in the region.

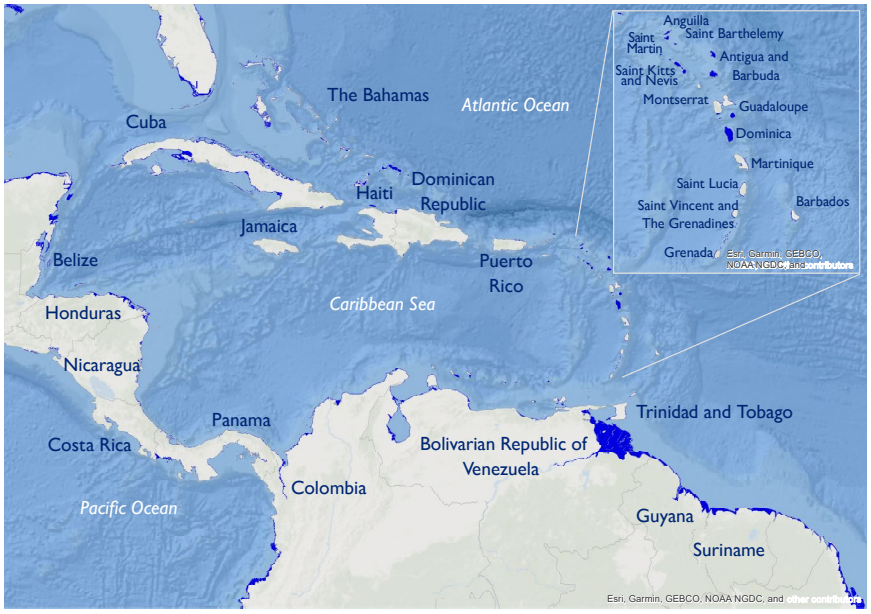
13.2 EXPLORING SEA-LEVEL RISE AND HUMAN MOBILITY SCENARIOS IN THE CARIBBEAN

In 2019, the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicted that sea-level rise (SLR) could be up to 1.10 meters above levels from the 1950s if global warming exceeds four degrees Celsius by 2100 (IPCC, 2019). However, a number of academic studies in response have asserted that these figures are likely conservative, and that actual SLR may be much higher.[66] High SLR scenarios by 2100 put SLR at two meters or higher (UN Environmental Programme, 2010).

- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (2010) estimated that a one-meter SLR would displace an estimated 110,000 people in CARICOM nations, with the Bahamas being the most affected, followed by Saint Kitts and Nevis and Antigua and Barbuda (ibid.).
- Bellard et al. (2013) estimated that even with one-meter SLR, 8.7 per cent of the Caribbean's islands would be completely submerged, increasing to 49.2 per cent at six meters. This carries important implications given that an estimated 22 million people in the Caribbean live between six meters elevation (Cashman and Nagdee, 2017) while 50 per cent live within 1.5 kilometers of the shore (IADB, 2016).

The map shown in Figure 13.1 shows the visual impacts of the more conservative one-meter SLR projection in the region.

Figure 13.1: Map of one-meter sea level rise projections in the Caribbean



Source: Own elaboration, based on ArcGIS layers and data available from Esri, HERE Technologies, Garmin, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United States (FAO), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), United States Geological Survey (USGS) – Centers for the Remote Sensing of Ice Sheets (CReSIS), University of Kansas, with research supported by the National Science foundation under grant numbers 0424589, 0122520 and 0407827. GIS layers and files available here.

[66] See for example, Siegert, M. et al., 2020, "Twenty-first century sea-level rise could exceed IPCC projections for strong-warming futures", One Earth 3, pp. 691-703; or Hofer, S. et al., 2020, "Greater Greenland Ice Sheet contribution to global sea level rise in CMIP6", Nature, 11:6289.

- Even with a one-meter SLR, 74 per cent of resort properties in Belize, 64 per cent in Saint Kitts and Nevis, 46 per cent in Haiti, 36 per cent in the Bahamas and 33 per cent in Trinidad and Tobago are estimated to be at risk, jeopardizing the tourism industry in many Caribbean countries (UNEP, 2010).
- A one-meter SLR is also expected to have significant impacts on transport and energy infrastructures and would lead to agricultural loss of six per cent in the Bahamas, five per cent in Dominica and three per cent in Haiti, for example (Ibid). A one-meter SLR is also predicted to have significant effects on natural areas and biodiversity, including wetlands (ibid.).

For a comprehensive breakdown of these one-meter SLR scenarios, see Table 13.1 below.

Table 13.1: Predicted impacts of a one-meter sea-level-rise in CARICOM Member States, by site / category and percentage (%) at-risk*

Country	Land Area	Population	Urban Area	Wetland Area	Agricultural Land	Crop Plantation	Major Tourism Resorts	Airpots	Road Network	Protected Areas	Power Plants	Ports
Antigua and Barbuda	2%	3%	2%	*	2%	1%	10%	0%	2%	5%	0%	100%
Barbados	1%	1%	<1%	*	<1%	<1%	8%	0%	0%	*	0%	100%
Belize	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	73%	50%	4%	0%	33%	40%
Dominica	<1%	1%	<1%	*	5%	<1%	0%	0%	14%	0%	0%	67%
Grenada	1%	1%	<1%	*	3%	1%	11%	100%	1%	*	100%	100%
Guyana	<1%	1%	<1%	1%	<1%	*	0%	0%	12%	*	0%	0%
Haiti	<1%	1%	1%	2%	3%	1%	46%	50%	1%	*	0%	100%
Jamaica	<1%	0%	<1%	<1%	1%	<1%	8%	20%	2%	1%	0%	100%
Montserrat	1%	1%	*	*	2%	1%	0%	0%	4%	*	0%	100%
St. Kitts & Nevis	1%	2%	1%	*	5%	1%	64%	50%	0%	*	0%	50%
St. Lucia	1%	1%	<1%	*	1%	1%	7%	50%	0%	0%	0%	100%
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	1%	1%	1%	*	2%	1%	10%	50%	1%	*	0%	67%
Suriname	<1%	1%	1%	<1%	<1%	<1%	5%	0%	7%	0%	0%	100%
The Bahamas	5%	5%	3%	5%	6%	3%	36%	38%	14%	1%	38%	90%
Trinidad and Tobago	1%	1%	1%	<1%	3%	*	33%	50%	1%	0%	0%	100%

* Unable to calculate

Source: Table adapted from UNEP, *Modelling the Transformational Impacts and Costs of Sea Level Rise in the Caribbean,* 2010.

Note: Projections were made as of 2010 and may have changed.

The above information presented in Figure 13.1 and Table 13.1 reflect the most conservative scenario for SLR. Under a two-meter SLR scenario:

- The number of people displaced in CARICOM nations is expected to more than double compared with the one-meter SLR scenario, while the quantity of wetland area lost would also double, numerous airports would be partially inundated, hundreds of kilometers of roads would be impacted, power plants would be impacted and more (UNEP, 2010).
- Under both the one-meter and two-meter SLR scenarios, potential flooding from storm surges will increase, thus having an impact not only on long-term processes but also on the severity of natural hazards and thus disaster-related displacement (ibid.).
- SLR is expected to generate further wave-driven flooding in the region (IPCC, 2021). Every centimeter increase in SLR is expected to cause a doubling of the probability of flooding (IPCC, 2021; citing Taherkhani et al., 2020).

13.3 THE IMPACTS OF OTHER SLOW-ONSET PROCESSES ON MIGRATION AND HUMAN MOBILITY – LESSONS FROM SIXTH IPCC ASSESSMENT REPORT

While constituting one of the most visual and frequently discussed slow-onset environmental phenomenon in the Caribbean, SLR is not the only slow-onset process that affects the region. The Caribbean currently faces and will continue to face the impacts of other slow-onset processes, including coastal erosion, droughts and environmental degradation.

The most recent Sixth Assessment Report of the IPCC released in 2022 observed that the declining trend in rainfall in the months of June, July and August in the Caribbean region is expected to continue in the coming decades, while a warming climate in the region and globally is expected to contribute to higher evapotranspiration and consequently, higher aridity and more severe agricultural and ecological doubts in the region (estimated with medium confidence at global warming levels of 2°C and above) (IPCC, 2022).

Below is a summary of key points related slow-onset processes and human mobility in the Caribbean highlighted in Chapter 15 on Small Islands:

- Additional warming in the Caribbean will likely lead to a drier region, more frequent droughts and significant impacts on agricultural yield and production, including limiting the range of crops that can be grown in certain countries (p.5, p. 27).
- More frequent droughts in the Caribbean are also expected to have an impact on freshwater systems (with reductions expected in the volume of fresh groundwater). In a scenario of 1°C increase in temperatures this could increase the number of individuals facing severe water resources stress in the region by 60 per cent in the period spanning 2043-2071 (p.3, p.4).
- Despite continued gaps in knowledge, there is evidence of increasing retreat of shorelines and beach loss (with high confidence) in the Caribbean region over past decades (p.15).
- Food security in the region is also threatened by invasive species and crop pests/diseases influenced by climate change (p. 17, p. 22, p. 23).
- The degradation of land and marine ecosystems and decrease in potable water in the Caribbean region is projected to have a significant impact across sectors – health systems, economies, food security, infrastructures, etc. – and there is confidence this will lead to further migration (p.5). It is important to signal that climate-related migration will be highly context specific and will occur under a variety of modalities, including forced displacement, voluntary decisions to move as a strategy to reduce risks, as well as planned resettlement (p. 29).

13. SLOW-ONSET ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESSES RELATED TO CLIMATE CHANGE, MOBILITY AND MIGRATION

The above challenges are compounded by issues in urban planning and population growth. Many Caribbean small islands are struggling from urban sprawl and the increase in informal settlements, often in high-risk areas (p.45).

The information presented in this section highlight the need for development of comprehensive sub-national, national, regional and global climate change adaptation strategies, the mainstreaming of climate adaptation strategies into development strategies and the close linkage of climate adaptation strategies with disaster response mechanisms. Likewise, human mobility and migration should be mainstreamed into any climate and disaster related policies and frameworks, and vice versa.

Notably, low data quality has been cited on numerous occasions (Smith and Rhiney, 2016; Robinson, 2018; Mycoo, 2020) as a barrier to creating effective strategies (IPCC, 2022). The data and evidence currently available are still not sufficient to understand the full range of how climate drivers are influencing or will influence migration patterns, nor to estimate the scale (ibid.). IOM highlighted similar dynamics in its regional report for the six member countries of the OECS published in 2021, Migration, Environment, Disaster and Climate Change Data in the Eastern Caribbean.

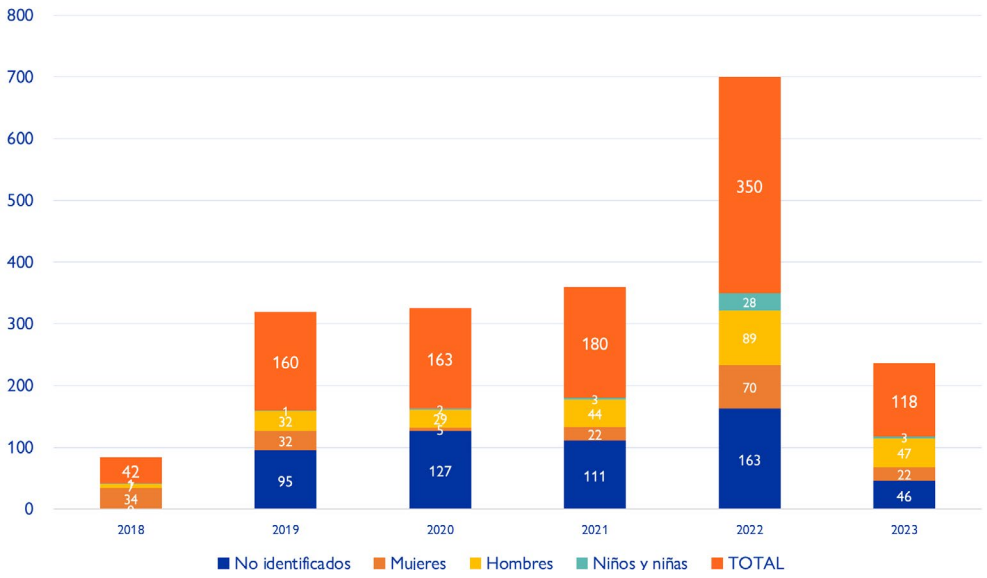
14. MISSING MIGRANTS

IOM's Missing Migrants Project (MMP) collects data from various sources (including coast guards and medical examiners, media reports, NGOs and surveys and interviews with migrants, amongst others) to track migrants who have died or gone missing during their migration journeys to a different country.

In the Caribbean region, some of the main routes where migrant deaths and disappearances are known to occur are along maritime routes between Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico (sometimes referred to as the "Mona passage"), Caribbean countries and territories to the United States, and from Venezuela to different locations within the region (IOM, forthcoming). These routes are considered particularly risky not only due to weather and environmental conditions on the high seas but also because many movements take place in non-seaworthy vessels (Ibid). It is suspected that many deaths and disappearances taking place in the Caribbean go unregistered, as many shipwrecks are never identified (a phenomenon often termed "Yola shipwrecks") (Ibid).

The below Figure 14.1 shows key disaggregated data on deaths and disappearances of migrants identified in the region in recent years.

Figure 14.1 Migrant deaths and disappearances identified in the Caribbean region, 2018 – June 2023



Source: IOM, Missing Migrants Project – Americas, n.d. [13 May. 2022].

14. MISSING MIGRANTS

- Since the beginning of **2016 and through June 2023,** a total of **1.298** migrant deaths and disappearances were recorded by IOM's MMP in the Caribbean region.
- Of the total number of deaths and disappearances recorded in this period this corresponds to, **206** females(15.8%), **281** males (21.6%), **41** minors (3.1%) and 770 **undetermined** (59.5%).
- As can be seen from the Missing Migrants Project data for the Caribbean, the largest demographic group for which we have data is the one that represents migrants who could not be determined in more detail, which implies a challenge in itself for data collection in this region.

It is important to note that the year 2022 represented a tragic record of lives lost in the Caribbean, which is undoubtedly a call to States and other stakeholders to remember the commitments made in Goal 8 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration to save lives and establish coordinated international efforts for migrants in transit.

The Caribbean islands receive many migrants and refugees who use dangerous maritime and land routes. This migratory dynamic increases the vulnerability of migrants to exploitation, human trafficking and other human rights violations and makes them prone to loss of life during migratory transit (IOM,2021)

Unfortunately, in the Caribbean during the year **2023** the Missing Migrants Project has continued to investigate, analyze, monitor and make data collection of deaths and disappearances in the Caribbean which continue to occur systematically from January 1 to June 30 the Missing Migrants Project recorded **118** lives lost which corresponds to **22** women, **47** men, **3** minors and **46** unidentified.

The identification of hundreds of cases of this tragic phenomenon in the Caribbean highlights the need to design new policy interventions, invest significant resources and fortify international cooperation between governments, UN agencies, civil society and other key stakeholders to ensure that migration through the Caribbean takes place in a safe, orderly, regular and humane manner. Aside from the tragic loss of life that occurs on migration routes, migrant deaths and disappearances also generate a significant impact on families and friends back home, who, aside from the economic impacts, must cope with the emotional and psychological toll of losing a loved one (IOM, 2021x).

15. CONCLUSION

This report is one of very few products that exists that comprehensively analyzes data and information throughout the Caribbean to generate a panorama of migration and mobility into, within and out of the entire region. While only a starting point, the report has shed light on immense dynamics of emigration which shows no signs of abating soon. The report has also provided information on the significant outflows of migrants from Caribbean countries and territories to Northern America and Europe in the past five-to-ten years which, albeit slowing during the COVID-19 pandemic, remained high since 2021. In addition to summarizing key points related to the sociodemographic and labour profile of Caribbean migrants in key destination locations (among other key points, highlighting significant degrees of out-migration of highly-educated individuals from the region), the data have also revealed a myriad of complexities in recent movements of (often) highly vulnerable migrants and refugees from Cuba and Haiti, who have been frequently identified moving in large numbers through precarious and circuitous routes in the Americas in 2022 and 2023. While presenting useful information on returns and removals oriented in administrative data maintained and published by key destination countries and regions, this publication has also revealed significant gaps in the evidence base on return migration in the Caribbean, pointing to the need for additional research and information collection.

An analysis of data on immigration has revealed that, while the Caribbean is mainly a region of net emigration, there are large populations of both intraregional immigrants (underpinning the importance of free movement and mobility in CARICOM and OECS member countries) and extraregional immigrants residing in the region. Inflows of Venezuelan refugees and migrants have had a strong impact on many small island Sates in the region particularly from 2017 onward. As a region highly dependent on travel and tourism, the significant drop in tourist arrivals registered in countries and territories throughout the region from 2020 to 2021 has generated significant negative externalities on economies, since 2022, the economies have recovered, there are still countries or territories that do not reach the levels of well-being prior to the pandemic.

Concerningly, sudden-onset and slow-onset environmental hazards and processes show the potential to generate immense levels of internal and international displacement and migration within the region in the coming decades, underscoring the need for comprehensive interagency and multi-sectoral disaster risk reduction and response mechanisms and climate change adaptation strategies at the national, subregional and regional levels in the Caribbean in order to maximize the benefits of migration as an adaptation strategy and minimize any possible negative impacts to migrants, host communities and Caribbean societies. Finally, as hundreds of cases of deaths and disappearances of migrants in the Caribbean continue to be identified each year, this tragic phenomenon highlights the need to design new policy interventions, invest significant resources and fortify international cooperation between governments, United Nations agencies, civil society and other key stakeholders to ensure that migration through the Caribbean takes place in a safe, orderly, regular and humane manner.

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