

Data Mapping for the English and Dutch Speaking Caribbean:

Migration Trends and Movement of Vulnerable Populations in the English and Dutch Speaking Caribbean

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Paintings by artist Jhomar Loaiza, living in Curaçao © IOM/Cortes 2023

Objective

The aim of the Data Mapping Reports is to create an up-to-date record of migration and displacement-related public data in the English and Dutch speaking Caribbean. This edition provides an update to the [Data Mapping report published 31 July 2024](#), extending coverage from June 2024 to December 2024. For the purposes of this report no data requests were issued, and only public data is shown.

In addition, this report includes a section on remittances and an overview of data collected since 2020 via IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), which provides critical multilayered information on the mobility, vulnerabilities and needs of displaced and mobile populations. DTM has been active in four countries since 2020 including Dominica, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and is used by decision-makers and responders to provide people on the move with better context-specific assistance.

Methodology

This report brings together analysis by the IOM Coordination Office for the Caribbean¹ of publicly available sources on eight themes related to migration and displacement. Only public data between **1 January 2020 and 30 December 2024** were included in this report. The table below breaks down the seven themes and corresponding sources.

Table 1: Data sources by theme

Theme	Sources
Migrant stocks and demographics	UNDESA 2024 mid-year international migration stocks
Movement of vulnerable populations ²	UNHCR 2024 mid year estimates on Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Forcibly Displaced Persons Government data on repatriations 2023 Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela (R4V) 2024 update Forced Returns to Haiti Dashboard (IOM) 2024 update
Returns and removals from U.S.	OHSS Statistical System of Record based on data received from CBP and ICE
Intraregional mobility	National statistics on emigration and immigration, UNDESA 2024 mid-year international migration stocks
Regular pathways	R4V Permits 2024 update National statistics Migration Flows in Latin America and the Caribbean, IDB
Disaster displacement and environmental migration	EM-DAT 2024 IOM, Displacement Tracking Matrix 2024 IDMC 2023
Migration and remittances	World Bank 2023 Remittances
Missing Migrants	IOM Missing Migrant Project 2024

Introduction

The Caribbean is defined by evolving patterns of mixed migration that have played a key role in shaping its identity. As of mid year 2024, an estimated **784,373 migrants live across 21 countries and territories in the English and Dutch speaking Caribbean³**, marking a **+16 per cent increase** in the number of migrants since 2020. Migrants are a predominantly female population (52%) and mostly of Caribbean nationality, followed by European or North American nationalities.⁴ The top five countries hosting migrants are Trinidad and Tobago (113,478 migrants or 15% of migrants in the subregion), followed by Curaçao (80,020 migrants or 10%), Aruba, Belize and the Bahamas (each hosting 9% of migrants in the subregion).

Nationals of English and Dutch speaking Caribbean countries make up just over 2.52 million of the total emigrant population in the world, having grown by **+7 per cent** compared to 2020.⁵ The top five emigrating nationalities from the English and Dutch speaking Caribbean are **Jamaica (1.25m emigrants or 50%)**, followed by **Guyana (469,649 emigrants or 19%)**, **Trinidad and Tobago (323,630 emigrants or 13%)**, **Suriname (258,026 emigrants or 10%)** and **Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (35,264 emigrants or 1%)**.⁶ Since 2020, Guyana, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago have seen a rising proportion of female emigrants.

Cuban and Haitian migration has risen by **+12 per cent** since 2020, with Haitian migrants increasing from 1.76 million to 2.02 million and Cuban migrants from 1.72 million to 1.88 million, reflecting a continuing trend of mobility driven by economic and political factors. The number of Venezuelan migrants and refugees on the move within the region is also increasing. Furthermore, the increasing mobility of Caribbean nationals, driven by both voluntary and forced returns across the Americas, demands attention as evolving regional dynamics intensify the criminalization of migration.⁷

Building on the previous report covering data mapped for 16 countries and territories⁸, the **Migrant Stocks and Demographics** section now includes Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, and the United States Virgin Islands where data is available. Figures on **Movements of Vulnerable Populations**, were updated since June 2024, as with the sections on **Regular Pathways**, **Disaster Displacement and Environmental Migration** and **Missing Migrants**. This edition includes a section on **Remittances** and **DTM data** collected as of 2020.

¹ The IOM Coordination Office for the Caribbean has a physical presence in 10 countries; and since 2023, has established its dedicated Coordination Office for the Caribbean in Bridgetown, Barbados. While the IOM Strategy for the Caribbean covers the English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean, it coordinates and works closely with Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic which are covered under this strategy only when migration or other factors impact the rest of the Caribbean.

² For the purpose of this report, vulnerable populations in the Caribbean has been framed by looking at the mobility situation of Venezuelan, Haitian and Cuban nationals in the Caribbean. See [Trends in Caribbean Migration and Mobility, IOM, 2023](#).

³ UNDESA 2024

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Ibid

⁷ President Trump's executive orders and the Caribbean. [Barbados Today](#) 26.01.2025

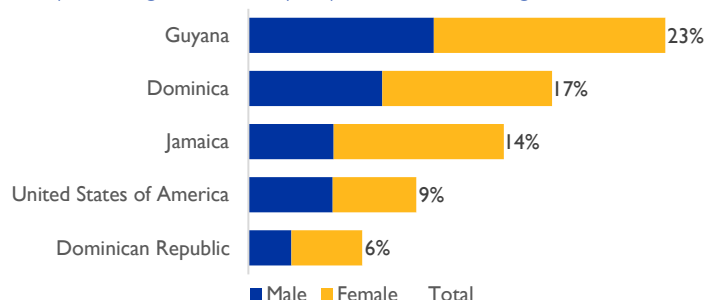
⁸ These include: Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Barbados, Belize, Curaçao, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, The Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago, and Turks and Caicos Islands.

Migrant Stocks and Demographics

This section covers migrant stocks and demographics of migrant populations in the Caribbean by country. UNDESA data as of mid year 2024 is used.

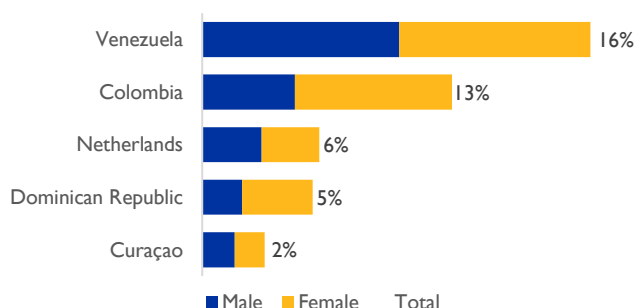
Antigua and Barbuda — According to UNDESA data, in the first half of 2024, there was a migrant stock of 30,473 individuals residing in Antigua and Barbuda, representing 33 per cent of the total population. Out of them, 55 per cent are female, and 45 per cent male. The top countries of origin were Guyana (7,064), Dominica (5,148), Jamaica (4,328), the United States of America (2,850) and the Dominican Republic (1,934).

Graph 1: Migrant stock by top countries of origin, and sex



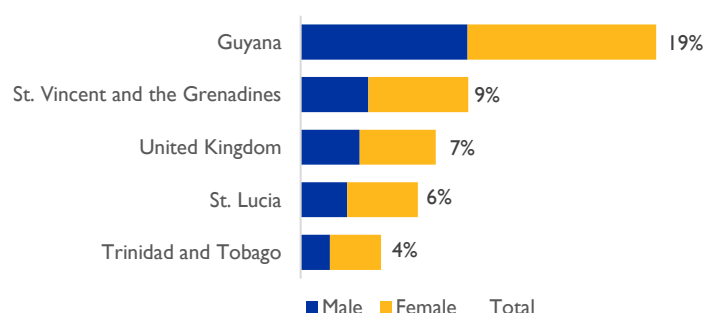
Aruba — UNDESA estimates that in the first half of 2024 there was a migrant stock of 73,494 individuals in Aruba; representing 68 per cent of the total population. Out of these, 45 per cent are male and 55 per cent female. The top countries of origin were The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (henceforth Venezuela) (23,312), Colombia (14,983), The Netherlands (7,032), Dominican Republic (6,636) and Curaçao (3,764).

Graph 2: Migrant stock by top countries of origin, and sex



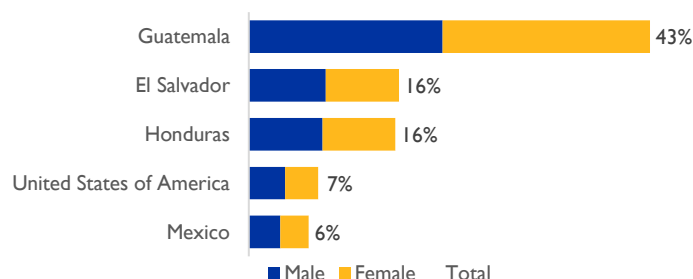
Barbados — Within the same period, UNDESA estimates that Barbados had a migrant stock of 35,187 individuals. This represents 13 per cent out of the total population. Out of these, 45 per cent are male and 55 per cent female. The top countries of origin were Guyana (6,728), Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (3,177), the United Kingdom (2,560), Saint Lucia (2,220) and Trinidad and Tobago (1,520).

Graph 3: Migrant stock by top countries of origin, and sex



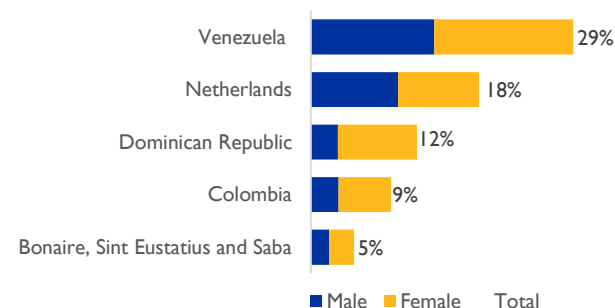
Belize — UNDESA estimates that in the first half of 2024, there were 68,706 migrants residing in Belize, representing 17 per cent of the total population. The data suggests that there was an equal share of male and female individuals with 50 per cent each. The top countries of origin were Guatemala (29,643), El Salvador (11,092), Honduras (10,835), the United States of America (5,146) and Mexico (4,426).

Graph 4: Migrant stock by top countries of origin, and sex



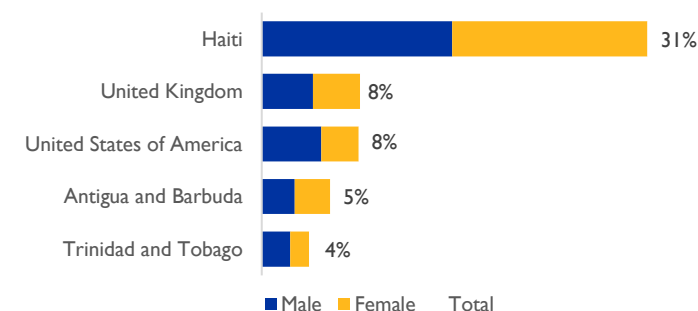
Curaçao — UNDESA estimates that there were 80,020 migrants residing in the country in the first half of 2024; representing 43 per cent of the total population. Out of these, 44 per cent are male and 56 per cent female. The top countries/territories of origin were Venezuela (23,078), the Netherlands (14,772), Dominican Republic (9,322), Colombia (7,075) and Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba (3,807).

Graph 5: Migrant stock by top countries of origin, and sex



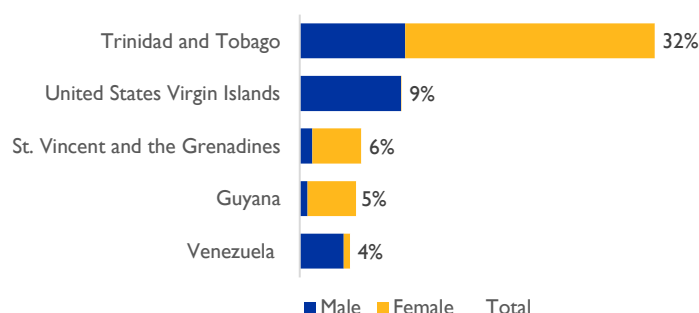
Dominica — According to UNDESA data, as of mid year 2024 the country had a migrant stock of 8,440 individuals; representing 13 per cent of the total population. Out of these, 52 per cent were male, and 48 per cent female. The top countries of origin identified were Haiti (2,585), The United Kingdom (659), The United States of America (649) Antigua and Barbuda (459) and Trinidad and Tobago (318).

Graph 6: Migrant stock by top countries of origin, and sex



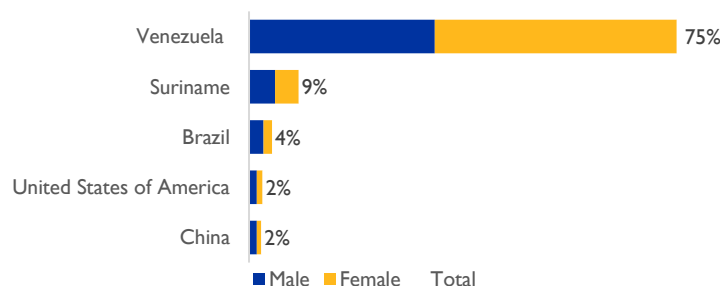
Grenada — UNDESA's data estimates that in the first half of 2024, Grenada had a migrant stock of 7,340 individuals; representing 6 per cent of the total population. Out of these, 46 per cent are male and 54 per cent female. The top countries/territories of origin were Trinidad and Tobago (2,331), United States Virgin Islands (670), Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (405), Guyana (371) and Venezuela (330).

Graph 7: Migrant stock by top countries of origin, and sex



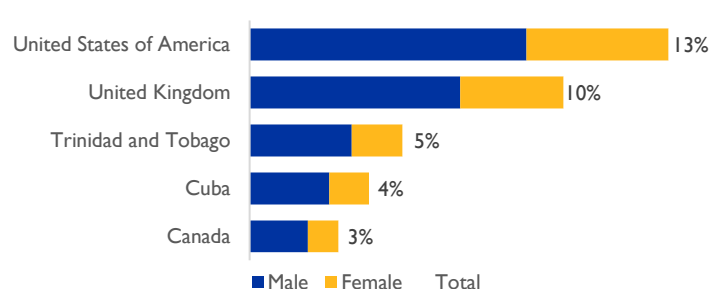
Guyana — UNDESA's data estimates that in the first half of 2024, Guyana had a migrant stock of 54,175 individuals; representing 7 per cent of the total population. Out of these, 47 per cent were male and 53 per cent female. The top countries of origin were Venezuela (40,545), Suriname (4,717), Brazil (2,190), the United States of America (1,286), and China (1,175).

Graph 8: Migrant stock by top countries of origin, and sex



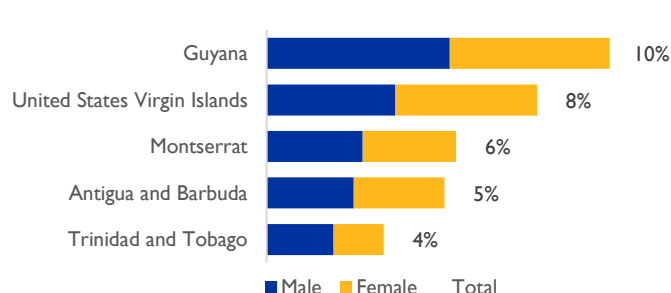
Jamaica — UNDESA's data estimates that in the first half of 2024, Jamaica had a migrant stock of 24,007 individuals. Out of these, 51 per cent were male and 49 per cent female. This represents 6 per cent of the total population. The top countries of origin were the United States of America (3,143), the United Kingdom (2,505), Trinidad and Tobago (1,200), Cuba (928), and Canada (643).

Graph 9: Migrant stock by top countries of origin, and sex



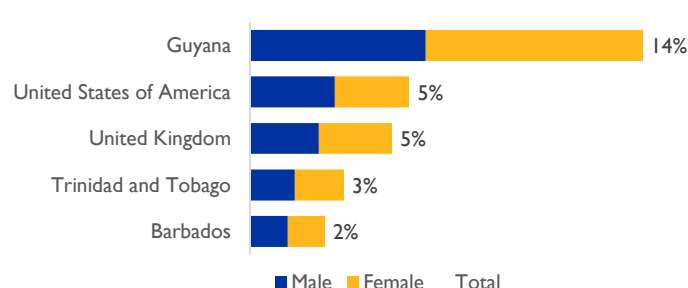
Saint Kitts and Nevis — UNDESA estimates that Saint Kitts and Nevis had a migrant stock of 7,958 individuals in the first half of 2024; representing a 17 per cent ratio in comparison with the total population. Out of these, 53 per cent are male and 47 per cent female. The top countries/territories of origin were. Guyana (829), United States Virgin Islands (653), Montserrat (458), Antigua and Barbuda (430), and Trinidad and Tobago (283).

Graph 10: Migrant stock by top countries of origin, and sex



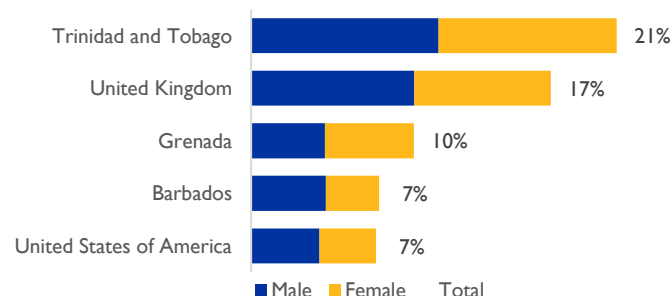
Saint Lucia — According to UNDESA data, as of mid year 2024, the country had a migrant stock of 8,079 individuals; representing five per cent of the total population. Out of these, 48 per cent were male, and 52 per cent female. The top countries of origin identified were Guyana (2,045), The United States of America (824), The United Kingdom (735), Trinidad and Tobago (488), and Barbados (390).

Graph 11: Migrant stock by top countries of origin, and sex



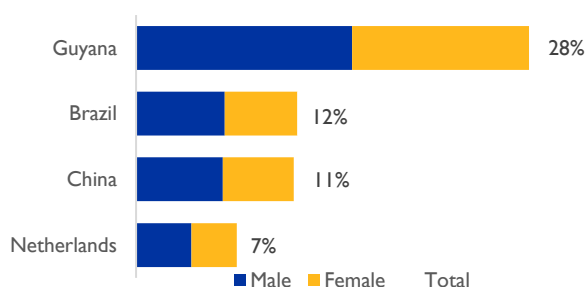
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines — UNDESA estimates that as of mid-year 2024, there was a migrant stock of 4,820 in the country; representing five per cent of the total population. The top identified countries of origin were Trinidad and Tobago (1,029), the United Kingdom (843), Grenada (458), Barbados (361), and the United States of America (352).

Graph 12: Migrant stock by top countries of origin



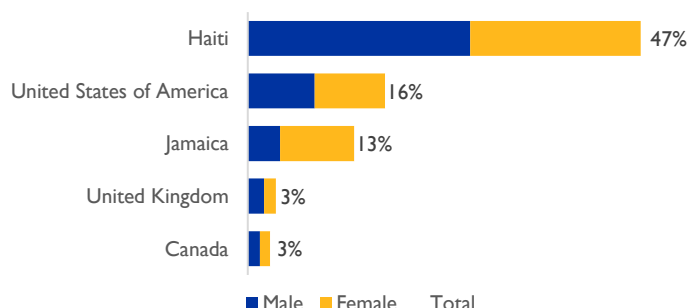
Suriname — UNDESA's data estimates that in the first half of 2024, Suriname had a migrant stock of 51,902 individuals; representing eight per cent of the total population. Out of these, 55 per cent are male and 45 per cent female. The top countries of origin were, Guyana (14,720), Brazil (6,044), China (5,913), and the Netherlands (3,774).

Graph 13: Migrant stock by top countries of origin, and sex



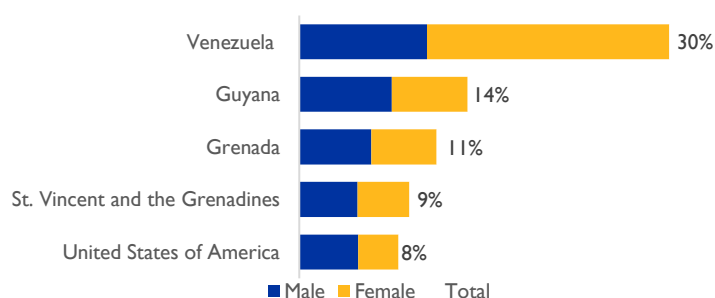
The Bahamas — UNDESA's data estimates that in the first half of 2024, the country had a migrant stock of 67,493 individuals; representing 17 per cent of the total population. Out of these, 51 per cent male and 49 per cent female. The top countries of origin were Haiti (17,735), the United States of America (5,325), Jamaica (2,582), the United Kingdom (1,302), and Canada (971).

Graph 14: Migrant stock by top countries of origin, and sex



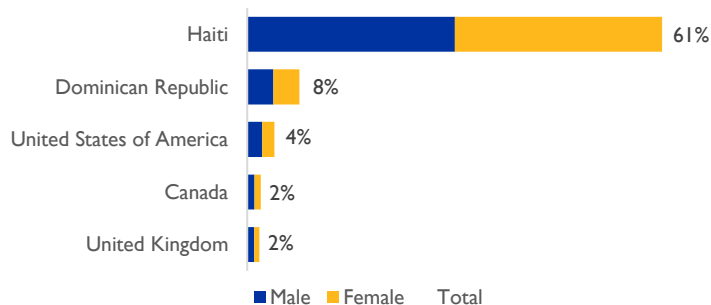
Trinidad and Tobago — UNDESA's data estimates that in the first half of 2024, the country had a migrant stock of 113,478 individuals; representing eight per cent of the total population. Out of these, 50 per cent male and 50 per cent female. The top countries of origin were Venezuela (34,543), Guyana (15,720), Grenada (12,827), Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (10,277), and the United States of America (9,267).

Graph 15: Migrant stock by top countries of origin, and sex



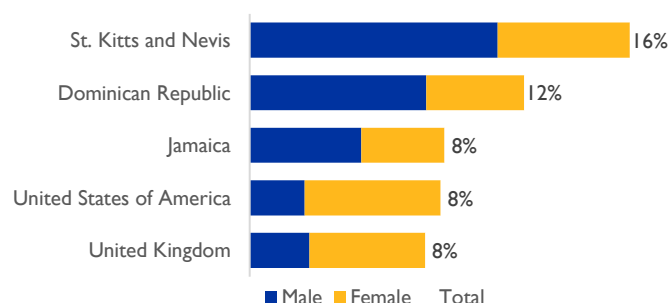
Turks and Caicos Islands — UNDESA's data estimates that in the first half of 2024, the territory had a migrant stock of 28,455 individuals. Out of these, 52 per cent were male and 48 per cent female. This represents 61 per cent of the total population. The top countries of origin were Haiti (17,446), the Dominican Republic (2,198), the United States of America (1,156), Canada (576), and the United Kingdom (521).

Graph 16: Migrant stock by top countries of origin, and sex



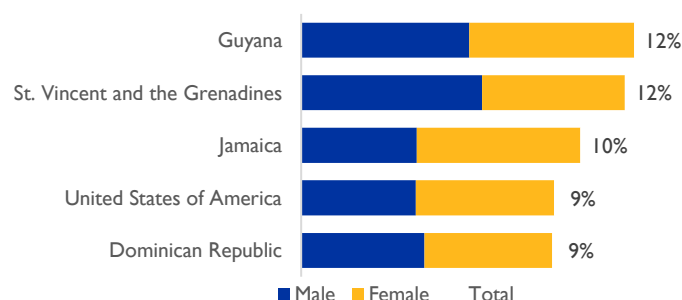
Anguilla — UNDESA's data estimates that in the first half of 2024, Anguilla had a migrant stock of 5,918 individuals; representing 41 per cent of the total population. Out of these, 47 per cent are male and 53 per cent female. The top countries of origin were Saint Kitts and Nevis (975), Dominican Republic (704), Jamaica (500), the United States of America (490), and the United Kingdom (540).

Graph 17: Migrant stock by top countries of origin, and sex



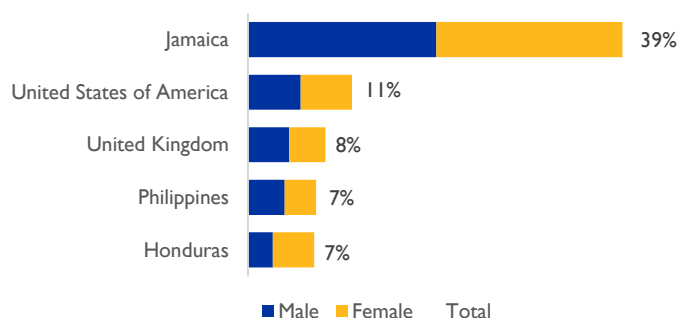
British Virgin Islands — UNDESA's data estimates that in the first half of 2024, the British Virgin Islands had a migrant stock of 24,520 individuals. This represents 62 per cent of the total population. Out of these, 48 per cent are male and 52 per cent female. The top countries of origin were Guyana (2,904), St. Vincent and the Grenadines (2,824), Jamaica (2,436), the United States of America (2,206), and Dominican Republic (2,189).

Graph 18: Migrant stock by top countries of origin, and sex



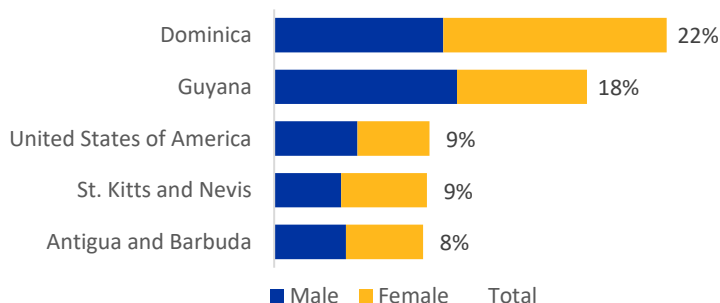
Cayman Islands — UNDESA's data estimates that in the first half of 2024, the Cayman Islands had a migrant stock of 31,935 individuals; representing 43 per cent of the total population. Out of these, 51 per cent are male and 49 per cent female. The top countries of origin were Jamaica (12,602), the United States of America (3,507), the United Kingdom (2,614), Philippines (2,614), and Honduras (2,234).

Graph 19: Migrant stock by top countries of origin, and sex



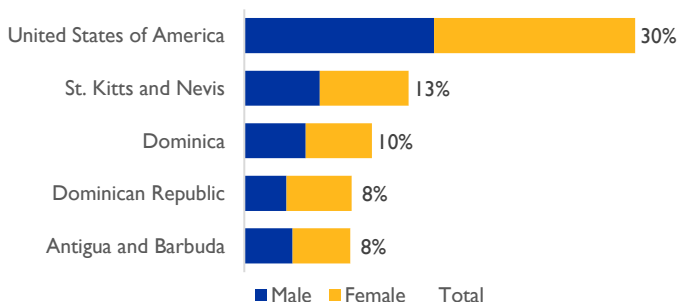
Montserrat — UNDESA's data estimates that in the first half of 2024, the territory had a migrant stock of 1,402 individuals; representing 32 per cent of the total population. Out of these, 52 per cent are male and 48 per cent female. The top countries of origin were Dominica (311), Guyana (248), the United States of America (123), Saint Kitts and Nevis (121), and Antigua and Barbuda (118).

Graph 20: Migrant stock by top countries of origin, and sex



United States Virgin Islands — UNDESA's data estimates that in the first half of 2024, the territory had a migrant stock of 56,779 individuals; representing 67 per cent of the total population. Out of these, 47 per cent are male and 53 per cent female. The top countries of origin were the United States of America (16,895), Saint Kitts and Nevis (7,107), Dominica (5,512), Dominican Republic (4,644), and Antigua and Barbuda (4,590).

Graph 21: Migrant stock by top countries of origin, and sex



IOM Identity Hub in Caye Caulker Village, Belize at the Community Center on the December 9th, 2024. An immigration officer gathering data from a beneficiary to submit her passport application. © IOM Belize 2024

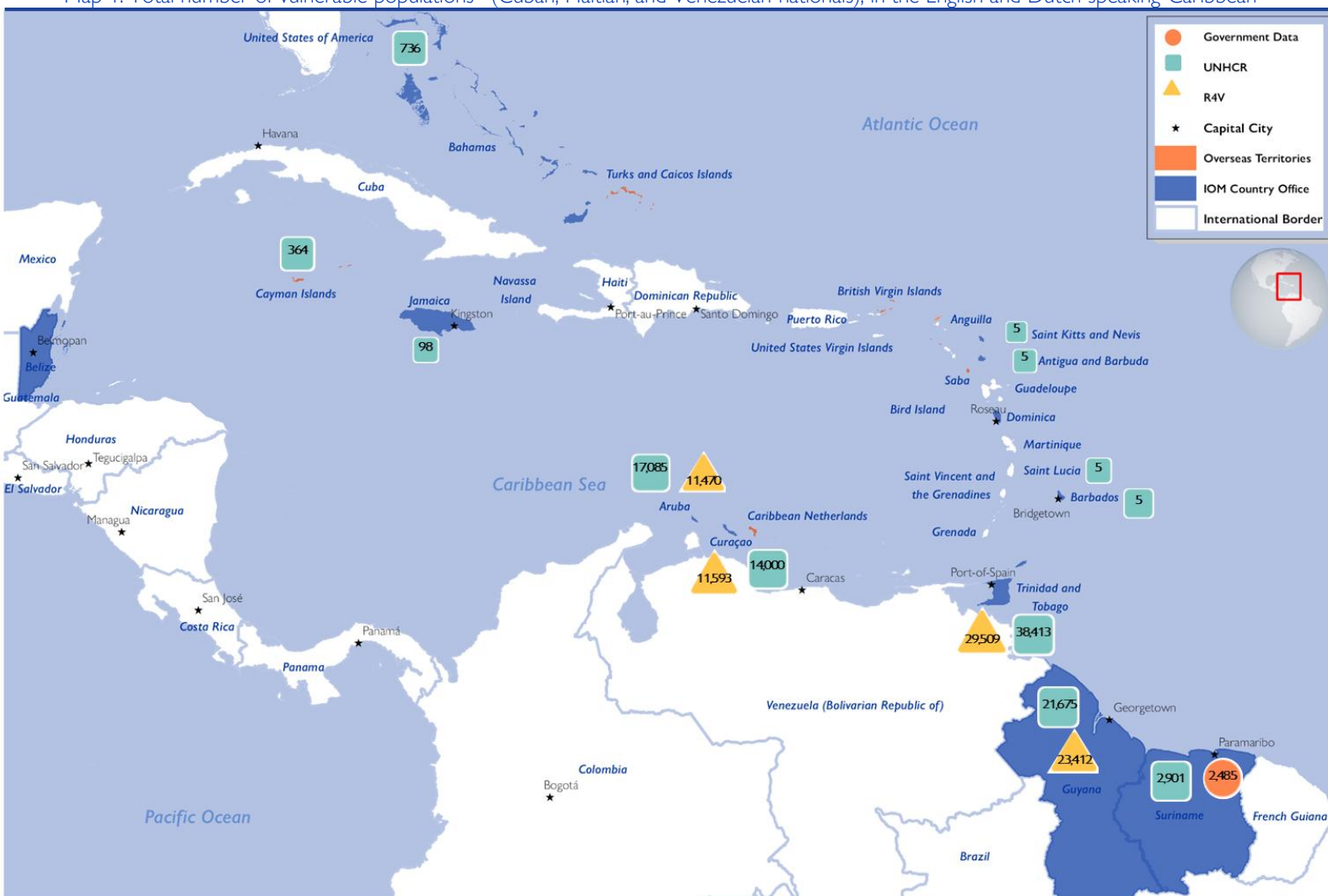
MOVEMENT OF VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

This section covers vulnerable populations on the move focusing on Venezuelan, Haitian and Cuban nationals. Data includes UNHCR, R4V⁸ as well as data collected directly by IOM Haiti via the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM): [1](#), [2](#).

Cuba, Haiti and Venezuela are among the countries in the wider Caribbean region that feature a consistently high percentage increase in emigration stocks since 2020.⁹ In 2015, where the combined number of migrants worldwide that were from these nationalities was 3.75 million, as of 2024 this number stands at 8.49 million, marking a +226% increase within the last decade. While the vast majority of these movements are through regular pathways, a significant number are moving in search of international protection, livelihood opportunities and regularization as the declining conditions in countries of origin continue.

According to R4V, Regional Migrant Needs Assessment (RMNA) the main needs for Venezuelan refugees and migrants residing in the English and Dutch speaking Caribbean included socioeconomic integration, protection, shelter and better access to health.¹⁰ Data collected by the IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix suggests that the number of Haitians that are forcibly returned from countries in the Caribbean continues to rise, particularly from Turks and Caicos and the Bahamas. Moreover, the suspension of temporary humanitarian protection programs¹¹ which historically provided pathways for persons from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela to enter the United States has exposed more to a situation of irregularity, heightening associated risks of exploitation, insecurity and lack of access to important services.

Map 1: Total number of vulnerable populations* (Cuban, Haitian, and Venezuelan nationals), in the English and Dutch speaking Caribbean



This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

Data Source: UNHCR, Government data where available*, R4V

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* This map visualizes the compiled data from Governments, UNHCR and R4V on the presence of forcibly displaced or otherwise vulnerable populations from Haiti, Cuba or Venezuela on the move throughout the sub region.

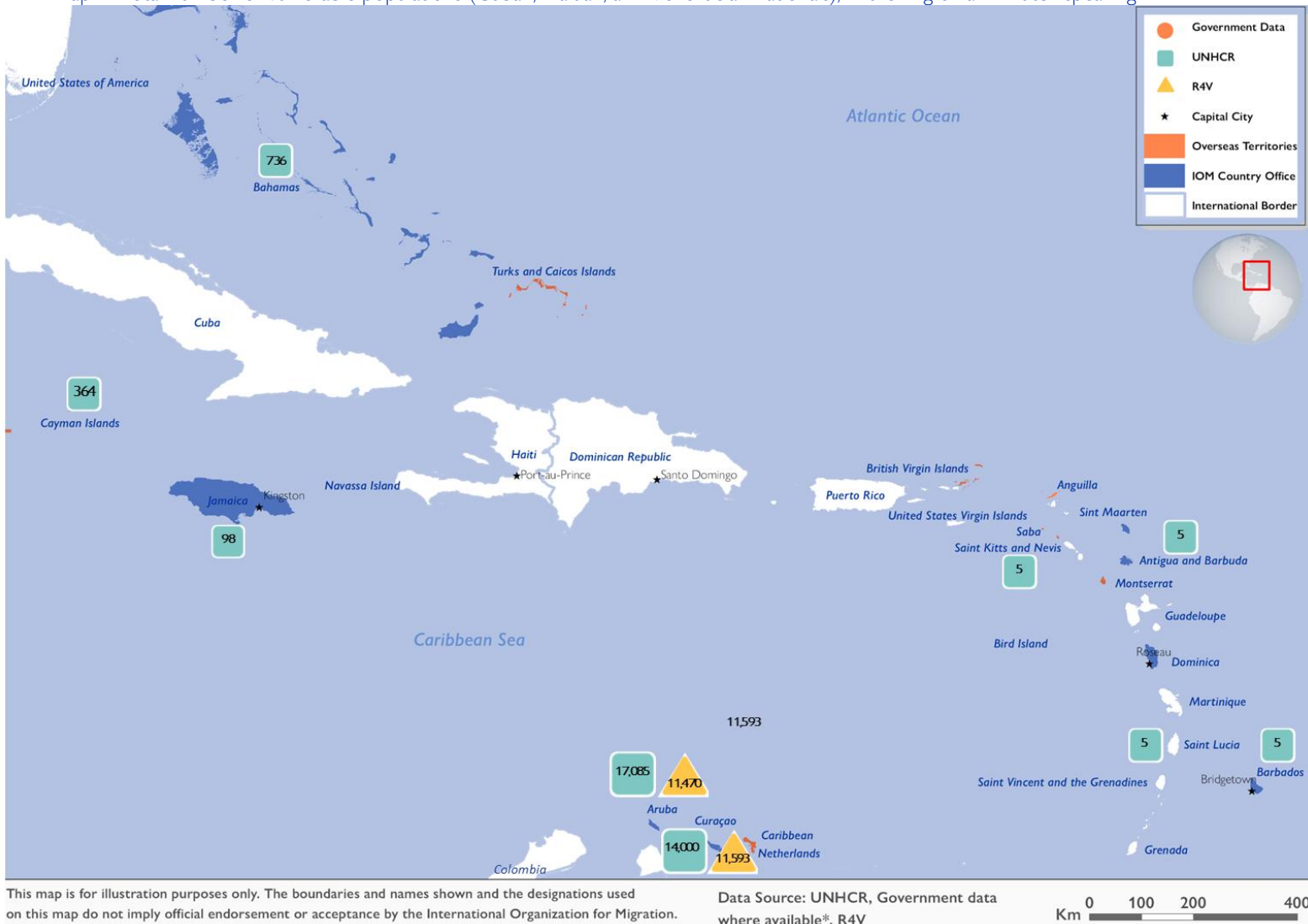
⁹ UNDESA, 2024

¹⁰ R4V, Refugee and Migrants Needs Analysis (2024)

¹¹ US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, 22 January 2025

*R4V only documents regularized Venezuelans in each country and therefore its likely an underestimation of the total number of vulnerable populations on the move.

Map 2: Total number of vulnerable populations (Cuban, Haitian, and Venezuelan nationals), in the English and Dutch speaking



Aruba — Data by the [Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela \(R4V\)](#), found 11,470 Venezuelan migrants living in Aruba as of May 2024. Additionally, UNHCR data indicated that in 2024 there were 17,085 refugees and asylum seekers in the country.

Curaçao — In Curaçao the R4V identified 11,593 Venezuelan refugees and migrants in the country as of December 2023. UNHCR data found 14,000 Venezuelan refugees and asylum seekers.

Guyana (see Map 1) — The R4V found 23,412 Venezuelan refugees and migrants in Guyana as of September 2024. Additionally, UNHCR identified 21,675 Venezuelan refugees and asylum seekers in 2024.

Jamaica — UNHCR data on vulnerable populations in Jamaica, indicated that in 2023 there were 98 refugees and asylum seekers in the country. Out of these, 68 per cent (n=67) are from Venezuela, and 32 per cent (n=31) from Haiti.

Saint Lucia — UNHCR data on vulnerable populations identified five refugee and asylum seekers from Haiti in 2024.

Saint Kitts and Nevis — UNHCR data on vulnerable populations identified five Cuban nationals in Saint Kitts and Nevis in 2024.

Suriname (See Map 1) — [Suriname's Migrant Situation Analysis](#), conducted by Ministry of Home Affairs in collaboration with IOM, found that there were 2,485 foreigners, out of which 110 came from Venezuela, 2,901 from Haiti, and 127 from Cuba. Additionally, UNHCR identified 2,417 asylum seekers and refugees from Cuba, 478 from Venezuela and six from Haiti in 2024.

The Bahamas — According to UNHCR data of vulnerable populations, there were 736 vulnerable individuals from Cuba, and five from Venezuela.

Trinidad and Tobago (see map 1) — R4V data found 29,509 Venezuelan refugees and migrants as of May 2024. Similarly, UNHCR data found 36,218 asylum seekers and refugees from Venezuela, 2,170 from Cuba, and 25 from Haiti in 2024.

Cayman Islands — UNHCR data found 144 refugees and asylum seekers from Venezuela, 142 from Cuba and 78 from Haiti in 2024.

*R4V only documents regularized Venezuelans in each country and therefore its likely an underestimation of the total number of vulnerable populations on the move.

In addition to the vulnerable populations on the move of Venezuelan, Haitian and Cuban nationality, the number of refugees, asylum seekers and other populations of concern from Caribbean nationalities in the English and Dutch speaking Caribbean is shown below.

Table 2: Number of refugees and asylum seekers from elsewhere in the Caribbean by country of origin in 2024

Country of origin	Refugees	Asylum seekers	Total
Jamaica	2,277	9,176	11,453
The Bahamas	175	2,567	2,742
Guyana*	251	1,620	1,871
Trinidad and Tobago	391	924	1,824
Belize*	98	1,390	1,488
Barbados	309	444	753
Dominica	88	571	659
Saint Lucia	134	308	442
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	177	160	337
Suriname*	44	257	301
Grenada*	80	114	194
Antigua and Barbuda	72	61	133
Turks and Caicos Islands	19	6	25
Curaçao *	8	0	8

Source: [UNHCR Refugee Data Finder, 2024](#)

*Data available as of 2022

IOM Haiti

DTM Haiti collects data on the socio demographic and economic profiles, migration experiences and intentions of migrants forcefully returned to Haiti in 2024. This is done through systematic counting at border points for tracking of deportations and individual surveys to obtain profiles of individuals being forcibly returned. This allows for an analysis of the profiles of deported individuals, their journeys and their specific needs. See: [Forced Returns Dashboard](#) and [Haitians forcibly returned to Haiti, 2024 \(forthcoming\)](#).

Data collected by DTM Haiti found that between January 2021 and December 2024, 15,928 individuals have been forced to return to Haiti from the English and Dutch-Speaking Caribbean. Out of these, 51 per cent were returned from Turks and Caicos Islands, 48 per cent from The Bahamas, one per cent from Jamaica, and less than one per cent from Saint Kitts and Nevis (n=16), and Guyana (n=14). Sex and age disaggregation showcased that 80 per cent of these forced returns involved male individuals (76% adults and 4% children), whereas the remaining female individuals were split between 18 per cent adults and 2 per cent children.

Over half (54%) of those deported from Turks and Caicos Islands indicated the intention to leave Haiti again, within 6 months following their forced return, mostly in search for job opportunities. Among those with this intention, 43 per cent are willing to go to The Bahamas, 23 per cent to Turks and Caicos Islands and just under one third (32%) to the United States of America.

For individuals forcibly returned from The Bahamas, 53 per cent had the intention to leave Haiti again within 6 months of their deportation, mostly for job opportunities (87% of respondents indicating this). Among migrants willing to leave Haiti again, the majority intend to go back to The Bahamas (87%), while the remaining 13 per cent would go back to the United States of America.

Table 3: Number of forced returns to Haiti between January 2021 and 2024, by country of deportation and sex

Country of deportation	Male 2021-2024	Female 2021-2024	Total 2021-2024	Total 2023	Total 2024
Turks and Caicos Islands	6,473	1,594	8,067	3,338	2,205
Bahamas	6,120	1,601	7,721	2,021	1,140
Jamaica	88	22	110	73	37
Saint Kitts and Nevis	9	7	16		
Guyana	5	9	14		

Source: [Forced returns to Haiti, DTM 2024](#)

Profiles of individuals forcibly returned to Haiti from Turks and Caicos Islands — DTM Haiti interviewed 1,123 migrants deported from Turks and Caicos Islands in 2024, all of whom were born in Haiti. Forty-one per cent departed Haiti in a group (mostly with non-family members) and 59 per cent travelled alone when leaving Haiti. Upon their forced return, 96 per cent were returned alone, while four per cent were returned in a group. A total of four per cent of deported individuals still had family who remained abroad.

Seventy-eight per cent indicated that they had left Haiti in search of better job opportunities abroad, and 19 per cent for access to better basic services. The remaining three per cent indicated doing so for education purposed (2%), family reunification (1%), natural disasters (<1%), and violence and insecurity (<1%).

Regarding their employment status, 67 per cent of the respondents indicated that they were employed before leaving Haiti (including 26% who were self employed). Additionally, 10 per cent were students or apprentices, and 20 per cent were unemployed and looking for a job. Contrastingly, 33 per cent indicated being employed after leaving Haiti (including 5% being self employed), one per cent were apprentices, 58 per cent were unemployed and looking for a job, while three per cent were unemployed and not looking for a job.

Construction was the most cited current area of work while the deported individuals were in Turks and Caicos Islands for 70 per cent of the surveyed individuals, followed by professional, scientific and technical activities (13%).

Profiles of individuals forcibly returned to Haiti from the Bahamas

In 2024, DTM Haiti conducted surveys with 195 migrants forcibly returned from the Bahamas, all of whom were born in Haiti. When they departed Haiti, 40 per cent did so in a group (including a vast majority (97%) with non-family members), while 60 per cent did so alone. In contrast, 95 per cent were returned alone, while five per cent were returned alongside family members. A total of 2 per cent of deported individuals indicated they still had family members who remained abroad.

Seventy-five per cent of forcibly returned migrants indicated that they left Haiti in search of better job opportunities abroad, while 25 per cent cited other reasons, including better basic services (21%), family reunification, education, and violence/insecurity (<5%, respectively).

Regarding their employment status, 67 per cent indicated being employed before leaving Haiti (including 20% who were self employed), 12 per cent were students or apprentices, and 15 per cent were unemployed and looking for a job. After leaving Haiti, 48 per cent indicated being employed (including 8% being self employed), one per cent were apprentices, and 35 per cent were unemployed and looking for a job and conditions deteriorated compared to when they were in Haiti.

Construction was the most cited current area of work while deported individuals were in The Bahamas (61%), followed by professional, scientific and technical activities (12%).

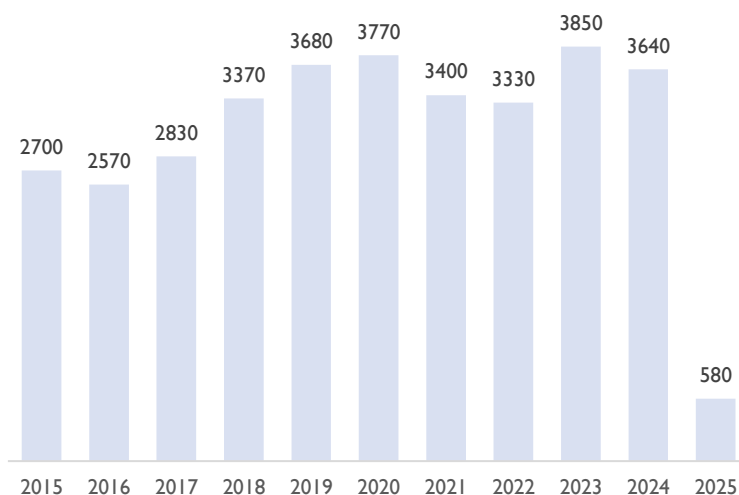
Removals and returns from the United States of America

A significant number of Caribbean nationals repatriated to English and Dutch speaking countries in the subregion are removed from the United States, highlighting its role as a key source of repatriations and returns. Repatriation refers to the process by which the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) sends non-citizens back to their country of origin or a third country. This includes removals, which involve administrative penalties, and returns, which do not.

The Repatriations Key Homeland Security Metric (KHSM) captures comprehensive data on these processes, tracking repatriations conducted by agencies such as U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), including the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) and CBP's Office of Field Operations (OFO). Understanding this data is essential in assessing migration trends and their impact on Caribbean nations. It is important to note data years are organized by fiscal year (January–September), so data from October–December 2024 are included in the 2025 Fiscal Year.

Between 2020 and 2024, a total of 18,660 individuals have been subject to repatriation or returned from 13 English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean countries. Of these, 4250 individuals (23%) returned or forcibly returned during the 2024 Fiscal Year (Jan–Sept).

Graph 22: Number of removals and returns of Caribbean nationals from the subregion 2015–2025* Fiscal Years



Source: [OHSS Statistical System of Record based on data received from CBP and ICE.](#)

Forced returns and deportations since January 2025

Since the beginning of the year, there has been one ICE-run removal by air transit to Kingston, Jamaica ([Witness at the Border, 21 February 2025](#)). However, many nationals of the English speaking Caribbean face final orders of removal ([TimesCaribbean 25 January 2025](#)), the top three being Jamaican, Trinidadian and Guyanese nationals.

INTRAREGIONAL MOBILITY PATTERNS

This section covers data on intraregional mobility using UNDESA 2024 International Migrant Stocks. Flows of CARICOM nationals under the "Facilitation of Travel" framework, and Skills Certificates issued to CARICOM nationals data is unavailable publicly from 2020 onwards. For the purposes of this report no data requests were issued, and only public data is shown.

Free movement of people has become a key aspect of Caribbean regional integration, embedded in the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME)¹² and the OECS's Eastern Caribbean Economic Union. Under the CSME, CARICOM nationals can stay in any Member State for up to six months through the "Facilitation of Travel" framework, though this does not grant rights to work. However, those with Skills Certificates—available in 12 categories—can stay indefinitely and access the labour market like local workers. As of end of year 2024, collecting and harmonizing data on the implementation of the free movement regimen is in process.¹³ The following section looks at 2024 UNDESA International Migrant Stock data as a proxy for the current intraregional mobility landscape.

Migrant Stock of CARICOM Nationals in CARICOM

In terms of migrant mobility within CARICOM¹⁴, UNDESA found that in the first half of 2024 there was a migrant stock of 165,235 individuals encompassing only CARICOM nationals. Sex disaggregation showcased relative symmetry in the migrant stock with 49 per cent of the total stock being male and 51 per cent female migrants.

Out of these, the top countries of origin were Guyana (52,740), Jamaica (28,893), Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (19,431), Grenada (14,528), and Trinidad and Tobago (11,500). To a lesser extent, nationals of Dominica represented five per cent of the migrant stock in the CARICOM region with 8,348 individuals, followed by Suriname with 7,896, Saint Lucia with 6,401, Barbados 4,829 and Saint Kitts and Nevis with 4,004 individuals.

Additionally, as indicated by UNDESA data, the top countries of destination for CARICOM migrants were Trinidad and Tobago with 44,324 in the country in the first half of 2024. This was followed by Antigua and Barbuda with 21,568 CARICOM nationals, Barbados with 15,795 and Suriname with 14,720 individuals.

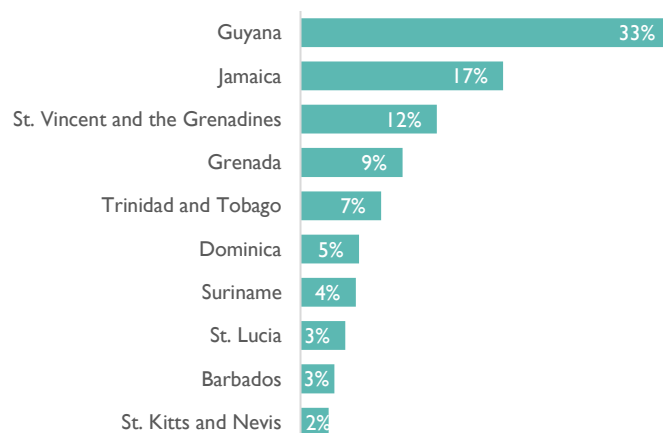
In terms of countries/territories that are not part of the free movement regime, but make up a significant number of migrants, UNDESA reports for CARICOM migrants destinations also included British Virgin Islands with 4,278 individuals, Cayman Islands with 14,161 individuals and Curaçao with a migrant stock of 7,641 CARICOM nationals. The full breakdown with percentages are shown in Graphs 23-25.

¹² OECS 2024

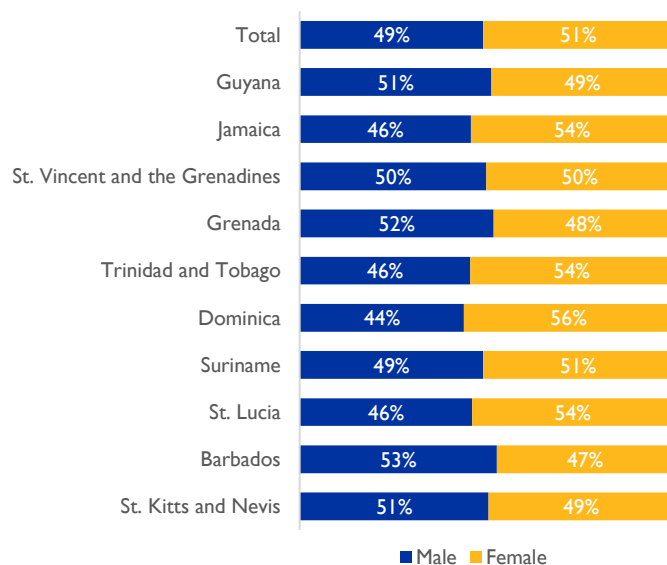
¹³ IOM, 2023

¹⁴ All CARICOM Member states except Haiti and Bahamas are included in this graph as they are not actively part of the CARICOM free movement regime

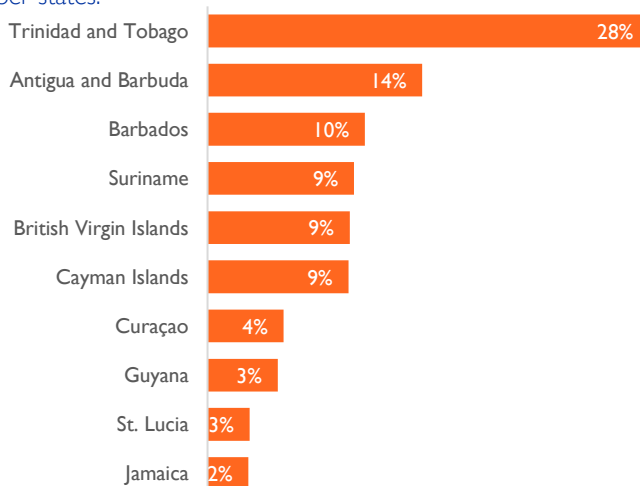
Graph 23: Top 10 countries of origin for migrants from CARICOM member states:



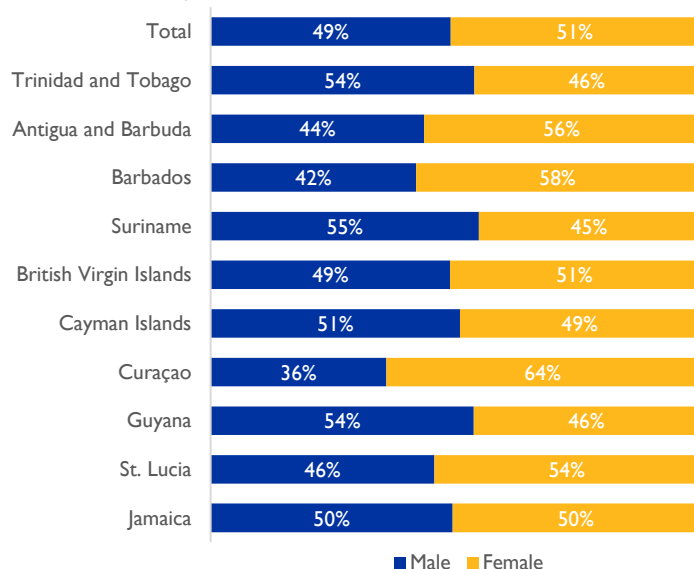
Graph 24: Top 10 countries of origin for migrants from CARICOM nations by sex and total:



Graph 25: Top 10 countries receiving migrants from CARICOM member states:



Graph 26: Top 10 countries receiving migrants from CARICOM member states by sex and total:



When analysing the changes in migration stocks, the region had a migrant stock of 131,744 individuals from CARICOM in the first half of 2015. By the first half of 2020, this number had risen to 141,545, marking a seven per cent increase. The upward trend continued in the first half of 2024, reaching 165,235, representing a 17 per cent increase from 2020 and a 25 per cent increase from 2015.

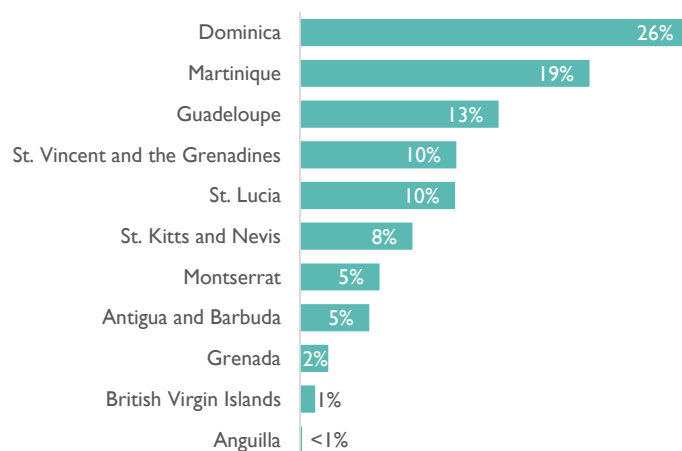
Migrant Stock of OECS Nationals in OECS

In terms of migrant mobility within the OECS¹⁴, UNDESA found that in the first half of 2024 there was a migrant stock of 46,472 individuals encompassing only OECS nationals. Sex disaggregation of the data suggests that the share of female migrants in OECS is larger compared to male migrants (57% and 43% respectively) when looking only at OECS nationals.

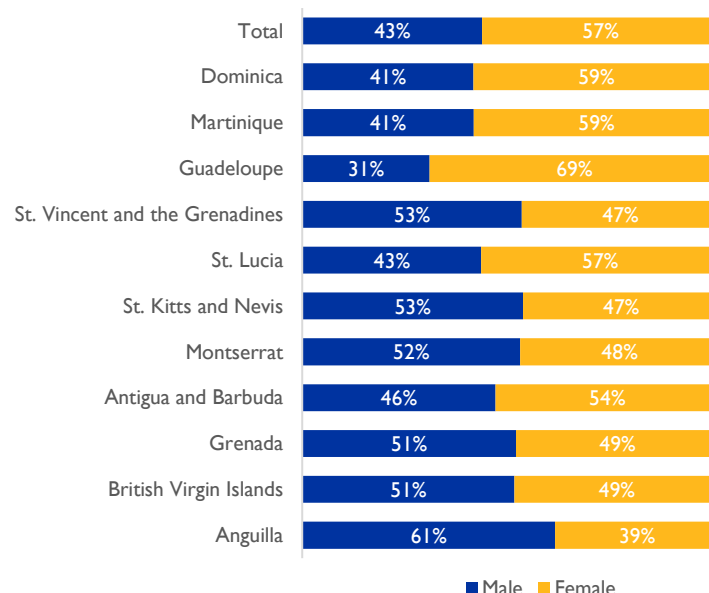
Out of the 46,472 individuals identified, the majority (12,087) were nationals from Dominica, representing 26 per cent of the total. This was followed by nationals from Martinique (8,994), Guadeloupe (6,174), Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (4,861), and Saint Lucia (4,820). To a lesser extent, nationals from Saint Kitts and Nevis represented five per cent of the migrant stock with 3,501 individuals, followed by Montserrat with 2,470 individuals, Antigua and Barbuda with 2,156 individuals, Grenada with 879, the British Virgin Islands with 469, and Anguilla with 61 individuals.

When looking at the share of countries of destination by OECS countries/territories in the region, UNDESA identified Guadeloupe as the top country of destination with 12,924 individuals, representing 28 per cent of the total in the first half of 2024. This was followed by Antigua and Barbuda with a migrant stock of 9,057 OECS nationals, Martinique with 8,739, the British Virgin Islands with 8,040, Saint Kitts and Nevis with 1,703, Dominica with 1,400, and Anguilla with 1,282. The remaining seven per cent was divided between Saint Lucia with 1,137, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines with 885, Grenada with 727, and Montserrat with 578 OECS nationals in the territory within this period.

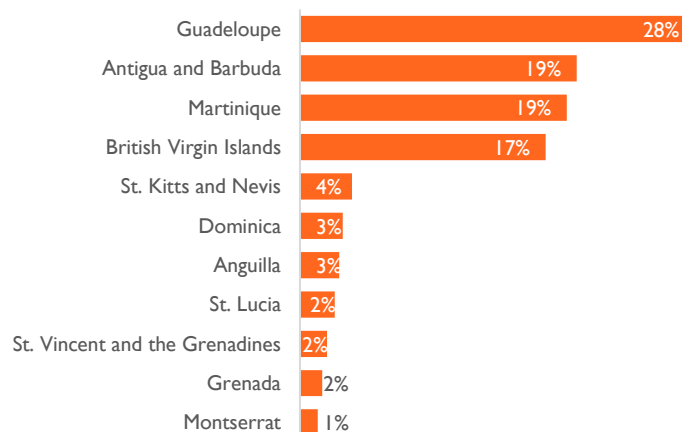
Graph 27: Countries/territories of origin for migrants from OECS countries/territories:



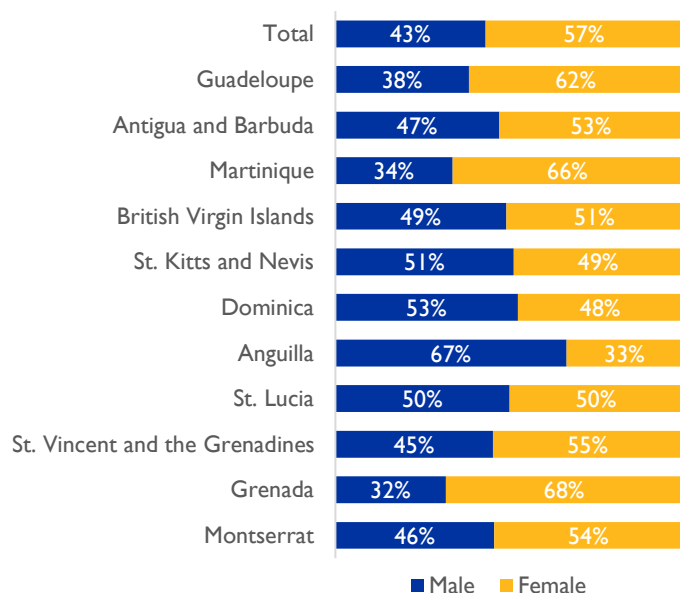
Graph 28: Countries/territories of origin for migrants from OECS countries/territories by sex and total



Graph 29: OECS Countries/territories receiving migrants from OECS countries/territories:



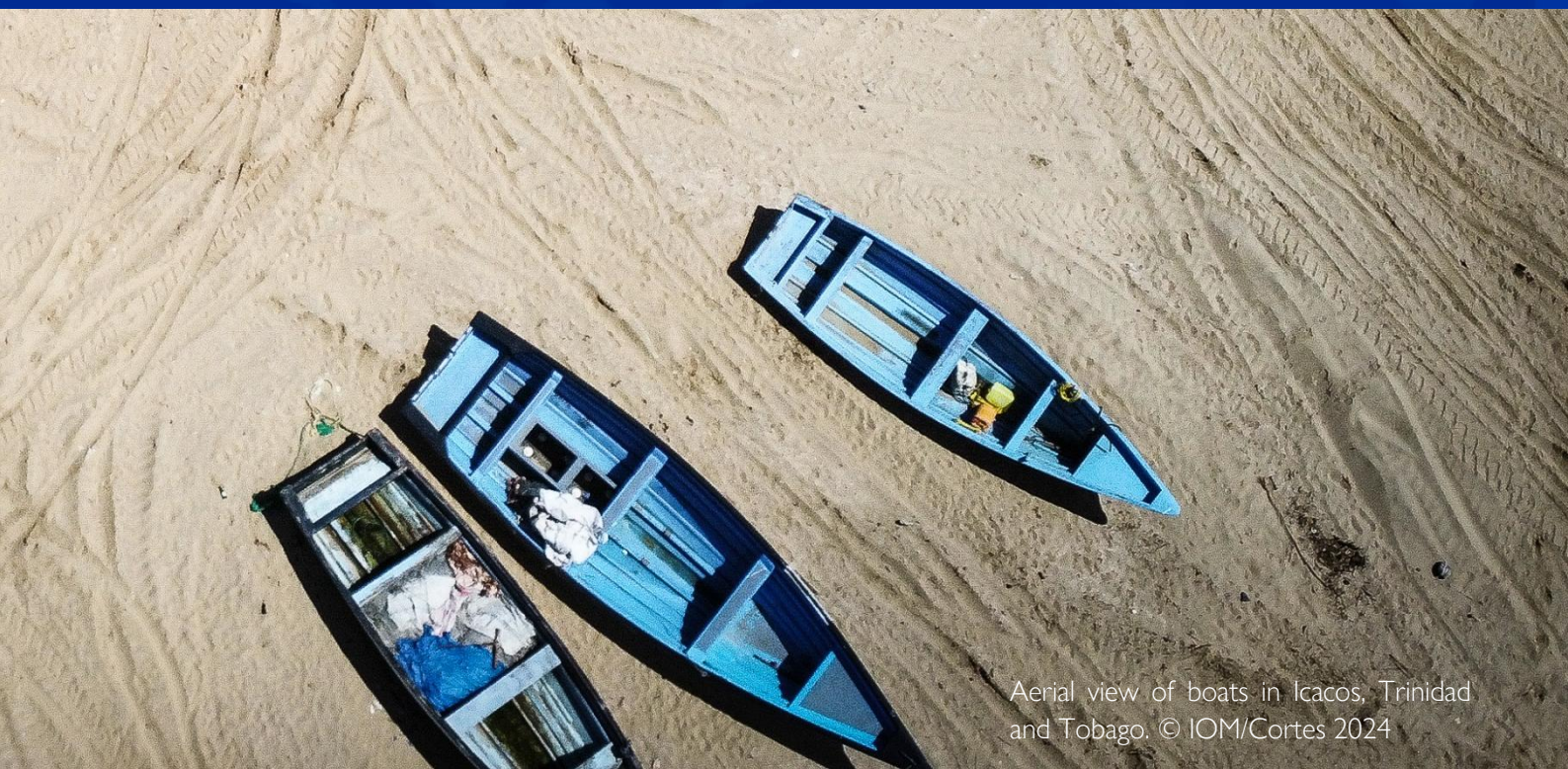
Graph 30: OECS countries/territories receiving migrants from OECS countries/territories: by sex



Graphs 31 on the following page shows Sankey diagrams of flows between the top sending CARICOM member states and the Top receiving CARICOM member states. The percentages are calculated based on total migrant stock for CARICOM nationals in CARICOM countries/territories.

Graph 32 on the other hand shows the same for OECS countries.

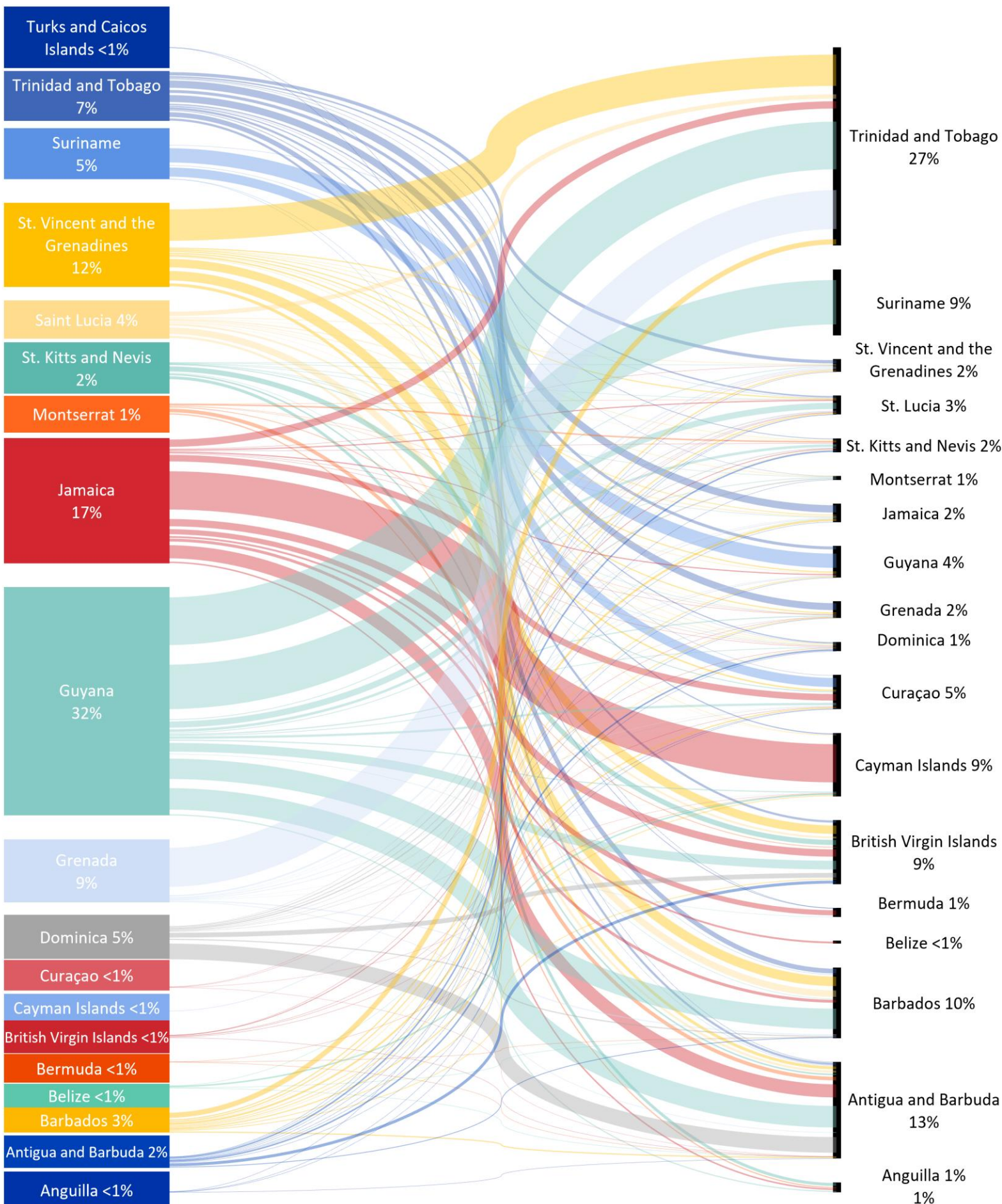
When analysing the changes in migration stocks, the region had a migrant stock of 44,254 individuals originating from OECS in the first half of 2015. By the first half of 2020, this number had risen to 45,401, marking a three per cent increase. As was the case in the CARICOM region. This increasing trajectory extended into the first half of 2024, where migrant stocks reached 46,472 individuals, representing a two per cent increase from 2020 and a five per cent increase from 2015.



Graph 31: Countries of origin and destination (CARICOM Member States)

Countries of origin

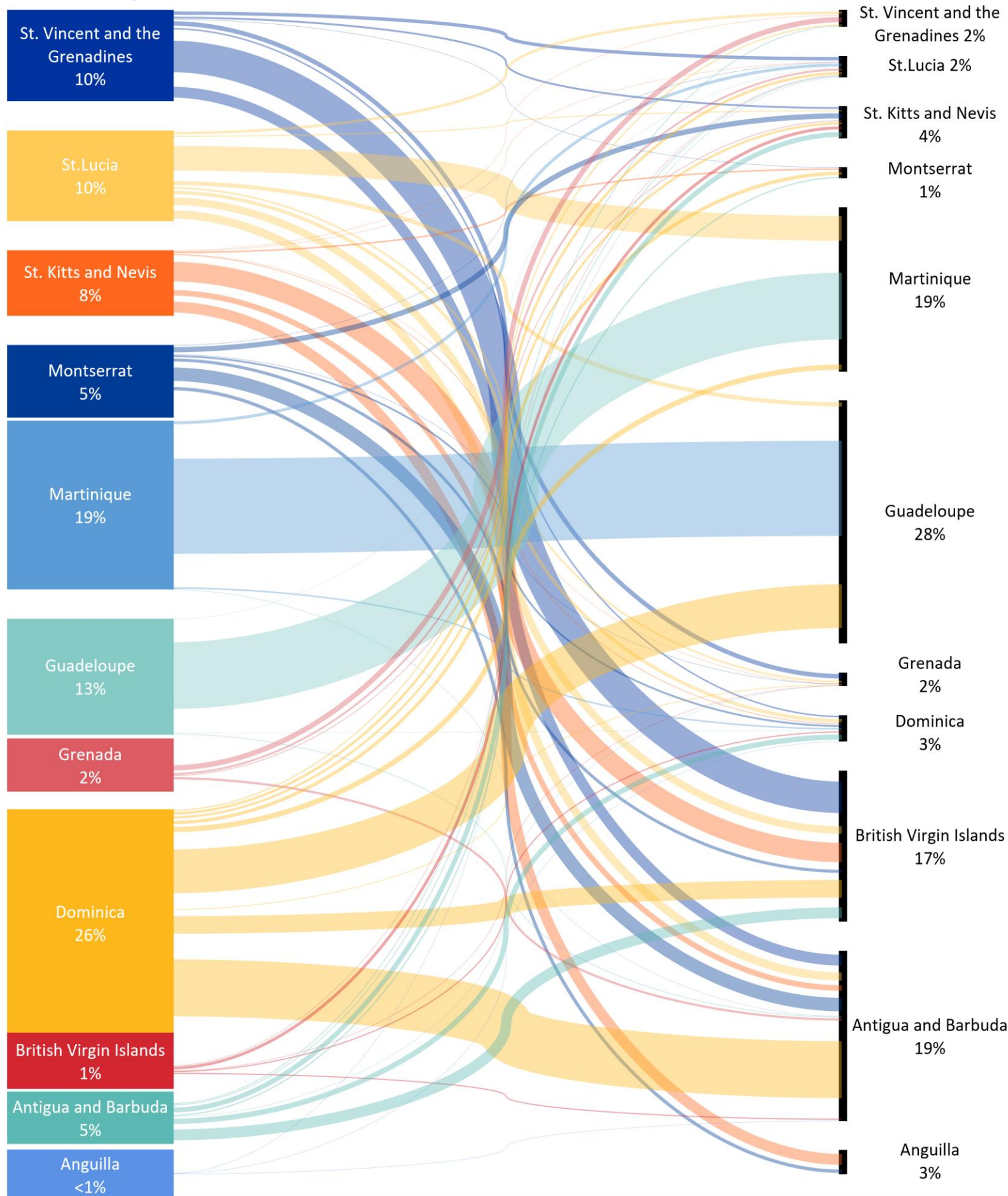
Countries of destination



Graph 32: Countries of origin and destination (OECS countries/territories)

Countries of origin

Countries of destination



REGULAR PATHWAYS

This section presents data on various types of regular pathways in the English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean. It includes information from national statistics offices on regularizations (residence permits) issued, supplemented by R4V data on residence permits specifically for Venezuelan nationals. Additionally, it covers work permits issued and, in some instances, applications to the Citizenship by Investment Schemes active in certain countries.

Residence permits

Aruba — According to the [R4V](#) 1,500 Venezuelan nationals were issued residence permits as of 2023.

Curaçao — According to the [R4V](#) in 2021 4,200 Venezuelan nationals were granted residence permits and regular stay in Curaçao.

Trinidad and Tobago — [R4V](#) data indicates that as of October 2024 7,000 Venezuelan nationals have been granted residence permits and regular stay in the country.

Guyana — Data presented by the [R4V](#), found that 23,400 residence permits had been issued to Venezuelan nationals as of September 2024.

Citizenship by investment*

Citizenship by Investment (CBI) in the Caribbean refers to programs offered by several Caribbean nations that grant citizenship to foreign investors in exchange for an economic contribution.

Antigua and Barbuda — According to [Antigua and Barbuda's Citizenship by Investment](#), from 01 January to 30 June 2024, a total of 739 citizenship applications were received. Out of these, 12 per cent of the applications came from Chinese nationals, followed by individuals from the United States of America (11%) and Nigeria (9%).

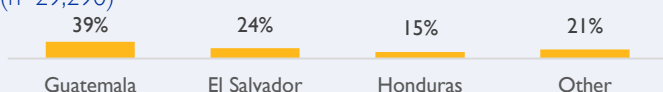
Grenada — Between 1 January and 30 September 2024 a total of [521 applications have been received](#). Almost one quarter are applications made by individuals from China (24%), followed by Nigeria (24%) and Ukraine (6%)

*Other countries in the Caribbean such as, Dominica, St Kitts and Nevis, and St Lucia have Citizenship by Investment programmes. However, only Antigua and Barbuda, and Grenada regularly publish figures by nationality.

Work permits

Belize — Data collected by the Statistical Institute of Belize on the country's labour force, found that 29,290 work permits were issued in 2022. Thirty-nine per cent of the permits were issued to Guatemalans, 24 per cent to Salvadorians, 15 per cent to Hondurans, and 21 per cent to other nationals. Additionally, sex disaggregation indicated that 64 per cent were issued to males, and 36 per cent to female applicants.

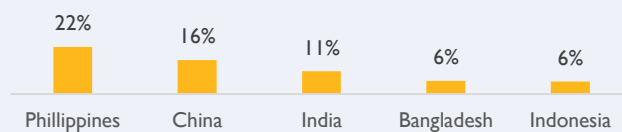
Graph 33: Work permits issued by nationality in 2022 (n=29,290)



Source: [Statistical Institute of Belize, 2022](#).

Guyana — Data produced by the Parliament of Guyana, found that, in 2023, 4,379 work permits were issued; 22 per cent to Filipino, 16 to Chinese, 11 per cent to Indian, and 12 per cent to Bangladeshi and Indonesian nationals (6% each).

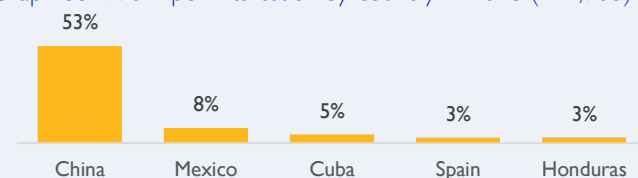
Graph 34: Work permits issued by nationality in 2023 (n=4,379)



Source: [Parliament of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, 2023](#).

Jamaica — The Planning Institute of Jamaica states that 4,783 work permits were issued in 2023. Fifty-three per cent of these were issued to Chinese nationals, eight per cent to Mexican nationals, five per cent to nationals from Cuba, and 10 per cent to Spanish and Honduran nationals (5% each). Female applicants comprised 20 per cent of the work permits issued, while male applicants represented 80 per cent of the work permits issued.

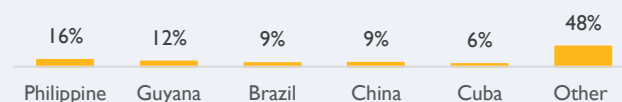
Graph 35: Work permits issued by country in 2023 (n=4,783)



Source: [Planning Institute of Jamaica, 2023](#)

Suriname — The Suriname Migrant Situation Analysis indicated that in 2022, 580 work permits were issued. Out of these, 16 per cent were given to Filipino, 12 per cent to Guyanese, nine per cent to Brazilian, nine per cent to Chinese, and six per cent to Cuban nationals. The remaining 48 per cent were given to nationals of other countries. Additionally, sex disaggregation suggested that 71 per cent of these permits were issued to males and 29 per cent to female applicants.

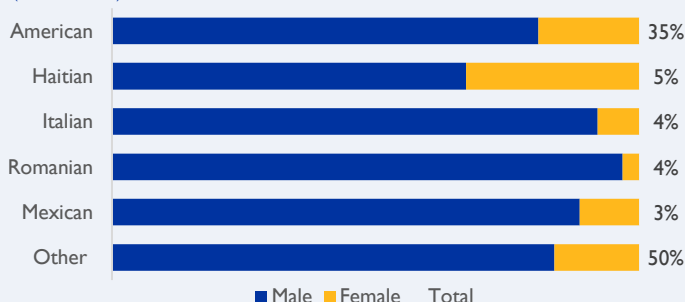
Graph 36: Work permits issued by nationality in 2022 (n=580)



Source: [Ministry of Home Affairs in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration \(IOM\) Suriname, 2023](#).

The Bahamas — In 2023, 12,008 work permits were issued to new applicants in the Bahamas. Out of these, the majority (35%) were issued to American nationals. Sex disaggregation showcased that 83 per cent of the work permits were issued to male and 17 per cent to female applicants.

Graph 37: Work permits issued by sex and nationality in 2023 (n=12,008)



Source: [Work Permits Issued, Commonwealth of the Bahamas, 2023](#)

MIGRATION AND REMITTANCES

Remittances, defined as the money or goods that migrants send back to families and friends in their countries of origin, are often the most direct and well-known link between migration and development ([IOM, 2019](#)). They can have great welfare gains; helping combat poverty and fostering the development of the financial sector at the macro level ([Oxford Economics, 2021](#)).

In the Caribbean, remittances are major sources of external finance, representing a large share of the region's GDP. This has become even more evident in the last 15 years as they have tripled, exceeded Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Official Development Assistance ([World Bank, 2024](#)).

In 2023, remittances received by Caribbean nations represented a **2.6 per increase cent** compared to 2022. In 2023, the remittance inflows in the Caribbean represented a 11.7 per cent of remittances received by the LAC region ([IDB, 2023](#)), with most of the sending coming from migrants in the United States of America ([MPI and IDB, 2023](#)).

In 2024, Caribbean nations received a total of 18.4 billion US dollars in remittances, out of which 50.4 per cent came from the United States, and 10.2 per cent from Canada ([IDB, 2024](#)). This marks a historic high in the remittances reaching the region, representing a moderate **2.0 per cent** increase compared to 2023, which saw a growth rate of 2.6 per cent. This highlights a deceleration in remittance inflows, consistent with a longer-term trend observed over the past decade ([Ibid](#)). The relative slowdown in remittances can be linked to multiple converging factors including evolving migration patterns, reduced human mobility, a deceleration of the labour market for migrants outside the region, tighter regulatory frameworks governing cross-border flows, and shifting economic conditions in key source countries, particularly the United States ([IDB, 2024](#)). Nevertheless, despite the recent slowdown, remittances continue to play a crucial role for Caribbean households, with 80 per cent of migrants remitting funds for daily needs such as food, housing, transport, medical expenses, education, basic services, business investment and real estate ([Ibid](#)).

In the near future, remittances to the Caribbean may face growing uncertainty due to shifts in U.S. immigration policies. With the newly inaugurated Trump administration tightening border controls and accelerating efforts to increase deportations. These changes could particularly impact countries with a higher dependency on foreign remittances, such as Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, where remittances account for a significant share of their GDP ([Reuters, 2024](#), [The Guardian, 2025](#)). On a microeconomic level, this could affect households' access to livelihoods, food items, and basic services, while on a macroeconomic level, it may hamper countries' development efforts, poverty alleviation programmes, economic stability, as well as their economic resilience to external shocks such as natural disasters, and health crises ([IDB, 2023](#)).

The changing political climate may signal an upcoming structural shift on remittances on two main fronts:

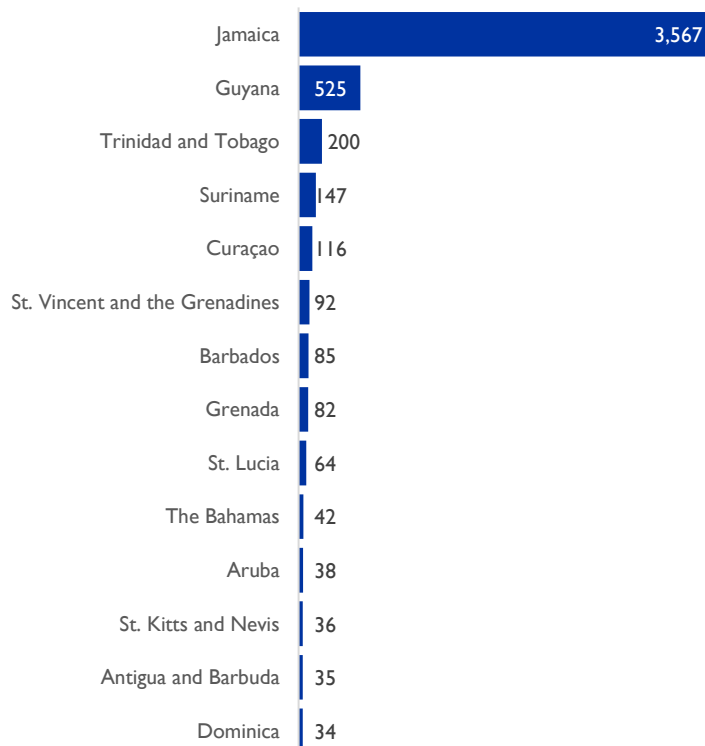
First, it could reshape the composition of the Caribbean diaspora, as future migrants may differ significantly from those who migrated in the past in terms of their economic backgrounds, types of employment, and the challenges they encounter throughout their migration journeys, including obstacles to sending money home ([IDB, 2024](#)).

Secondly, the economic capacity of migrants to remit funds may also decline. Increasing difficulties in securing and maintaining jobs, coupled with rising living costs and stricter migration policies in destination countries may leave migrants with less disposable income to send back to their families. ([World Bank Group 2023](#)). These shifts will likely make Caribbean nationals — both those sending and receiving remittances — more vulnerable ([IOM, 2022](#)).

Together, these evolving vulnerabilities could amplify the economic and social fragility of both Caribbean migrants abroad and their families back home, increasing the region's exposure to sudden shocks, long-term developmental challenges as well as individual and household access to livelihoods and basic services. ([IDB, 2024](#)).

Remittance inflows in the Caribbean in 2023

Graph 38: Remittance inflows in 2023 (US\$ millions)



Source: World Bank, 2023

Remittance inflows to Caribbean countries reflect significant economic contributions from their diasporas. In 2023, Jamaica received the largest amount, with remittances inflows amounting to an estimated USD 3,567 million, underscoring its strong connection with overseas communities. Guyana followed with remittance inflows of USD 525 million, while Trinidad and Tobago recorded USD 200 million. Curaçao and Suriname received USD 116 million and USD 147 million, respectively. Smaller economies, such as Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda, and Saint Kitts and Nevis, saw remittances ranging from USD 34 million to USD 38 million. These inflows play a vital role in supporting household incomes and national economies across the region. However, it is important to note that these official figures are likely to underreport remittances due to the unknown scope of informal transfers that are not accounted for.

Remittance outflows in the Caribbean in 2023

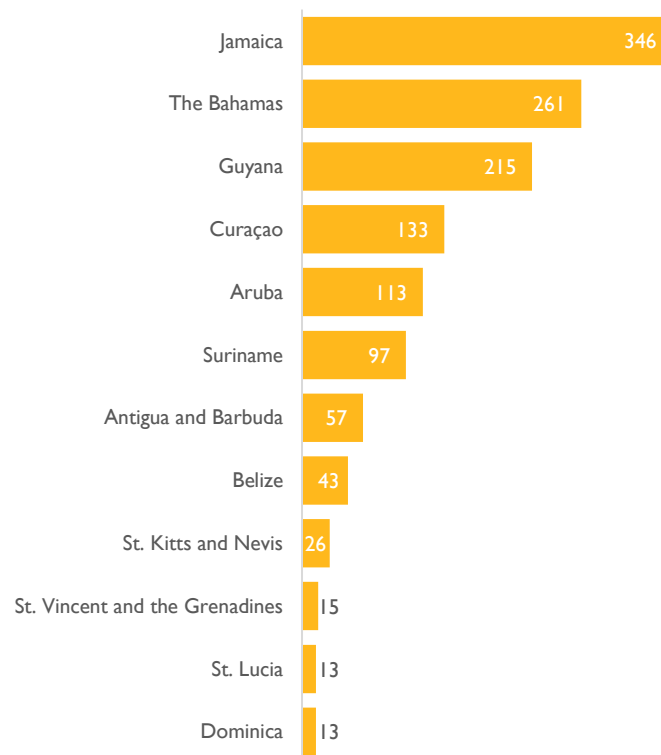
The World Bank's 2023 estimates on remittance outflows in the Caribbean reveal notable disparities among countries, with significant amounts recorded for certain nations while others lack official data. Jamaica leads with the highest outflows at an estimated USD 346 million, followed by The Bahamas with USD 261 million and Guyana with USD 215 million. Curaçao also reported substantial outflows of USD 133 million, alongside Aruba (USD 113 million) and Suriname (USD 97 million).

However, official data is unavailable for Barbados, Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Turks and Caicos Islands. The absence of data for some countries underscores the need for improved tracking of remittance flows in the region. These figures reflect the movement of funds by Caribbean residents to support families and communities abroad, influenced by factors such as migration patterns and economic conditions.

In 2023, remittance inflows as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) across Caribbean countries/territories demonstrated notable variations, reflecting differing economic dependencies on external financing. According to World Bank data, Jamaica had the highest remittance inflows relative to its GDP at 18.9 per cent. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines followed with 8.8 per cent, while Grenada recorded 6.2 per cent and Dominica 5.2 per cent.

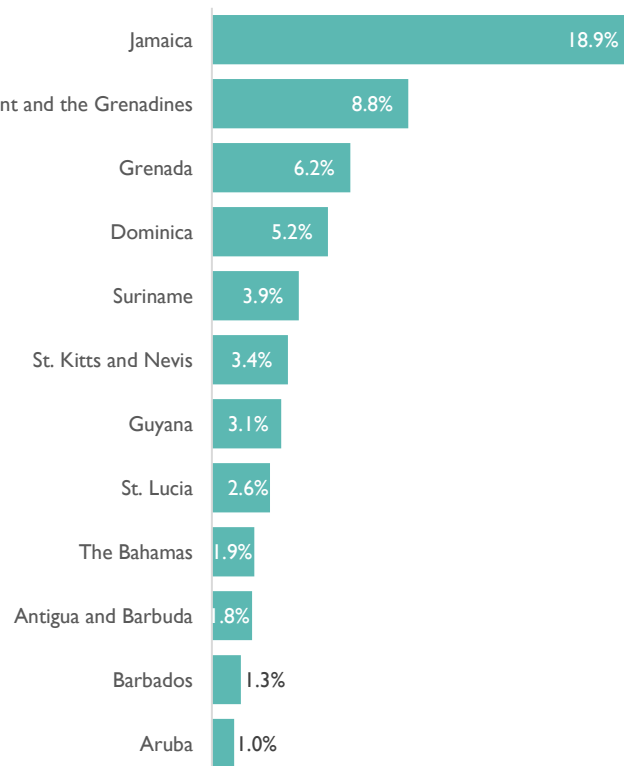
Data for Belize, Curaçao, and Turks and Caicos Islands were unavailable, indicating gaps in the dataset. These figures underscore the economic diversity of the Caribbean, with some nations, like Jamaica, remittance inflows having a significant share of its GDP.

Graph 39: Remittance outflows (US\$ millions)



Source: World Bank, 2023

Graph 40: Remittance inflows in 2023 as a percentage of countries' GDP



Source: World Bank, 2023

MISSING MIGRANTS

The Caribbean has three main mobility routes: one from Cuba to Florida, another from Venezuela to islands like Aruba, Curaçao, Bonaire, and Trinidad & Tobago, and a third across the Mona Passage between the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico, used by Dominican, Venezuelan, Cuban, and Haitian migrants. Additional routes include those from San Andrés and Providencia to Nicaragua, maritime paths through Darién National Park, and routes from the Caribbean to Venezuela.

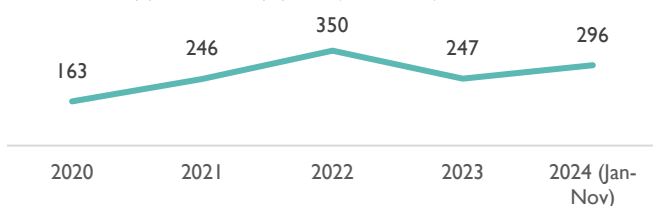
Migration on these routes remains unsafe, irregular and deadly. Migrants travelling on these routes face serious risks of death, particularly if using unseaworthy vessels that may sink or capsize in the ocean. They are also affected by risks related to crimes including human trafficking.

In line with the dynamic human mobility displayed in the region and the multifaceted threats that migrants face in their journeys, this section looks at IOM's [Missing Migrants Project](#) (MMP) data⁵ on missing/dead⁶ migrants in and originating from the Caribbean, including Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Cuba, and Puerto Rico, between 2020 and January and November 2024. The database for this section was consulted 01 February 2024. All MMP data are continuously updated, including in some cases retroactively for previous years as new data are reported.

This report lays out MMP data on missing/dead migrants where accidents took place within the Caribbean and MMP data of missing/dead migrants who originated from the Caribbean but were recorded as dead/missing outside the region.

Missing/dead migrants in the Caribbean

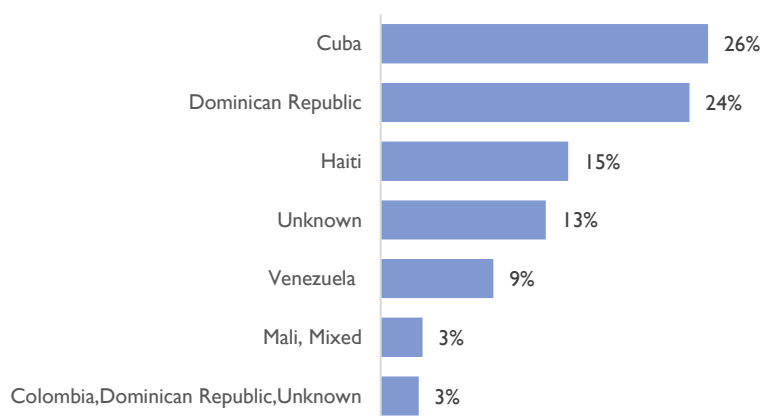
Graph 41: Minimum estimated number of incidents that resulted in death/disappearance by year (n= 1,302)



Between 2020 and November 2024, the MMP recorded 1,302 incidents that resulted in the death/disappearance of at least one migrant.⁶ Out of these, the **most recorded number of incidents was in 2022, with 31 per cent (n=115)**, followed by **2023 with 27 per cent and 2024 with 23 per cent**. This was followed by 2021 and 2023 (19% each), and 2020 with 13 per cent. It is important to notice that 2024 has reported a high number of incidents that resulted in at least one dead/missing migrants reported despite only including data between January and November. 2024 was the [deadliest year for migrants worldwide and also broke the record of MMPs in the Caribbean](#).

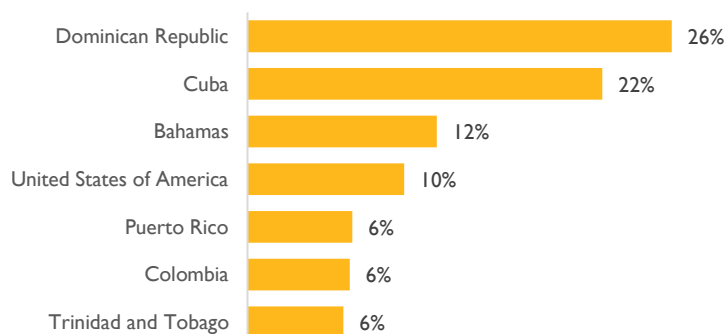
Moreover, the MPP data identified that out of the 1,302 incidents recorded, **26 per cent involved individuals from Cuba, 24 per cents from the Dominican Republic, 15 per cent individuals from Haiti, 9 per cent from Venezuela, and three per cent from Mali, or mixed origins⁷**. Other countries of origin identified were, Colombia, Ecuador, Thailand, Cameroon, Mauritania, Senegal, Guyana, the Bahamas and Jamaica.

Graph 42: Minimum estimated incidents that resulted in death/disappearance by top countries of origin (n=1,302)



Moreover, MPP data identified that out of the 1,302 incidents recorded, 26 per cent had occurred in the Dominican Republic, 22 per cent in Cuba, 12 per cent in the Bahamas, and 10 per cent in The United States of America. Another 21 per cent had occurred in Puerto Rico, Colombia, and Trinidad and Tobago (6% each). To a less extent, other countries of accidents identified by the MMP were Haiti (3%) Venezuela (3%), and Turks and Caicos Islands (2%).

Graph 43: Minimum incidents that resulted in death/disappearance by top countries of incident (n=1,302)



Out of the total incidents identified, drowning remained the highest cause of death with 82 per cent of the recorded incidents, followed by harsh environmental conditions/lack of adequate shelter, food, water (8%), mixed or unknown reasons (6%), and accidental death (3%).

¹⁴ Methodological note: IOM's Missing Migrants Project counts migrant fatalities only at the external borders of a state or during the process of migrating towards an international destination. The term *Missing migrant* refers to disappearances during migration in which a person is **presumed dead**.

This data collection methodology presents some limitations in terms of consistency and comparability of data as the MMP team constantly works to improve the data, as well as due to a lack of systematic reporting on the deaths of non-nationals in transit, as official data are often unavailable or incomplete. See: [Missing Migrants Project: A decade documenting migrant deaths](#) P. 16

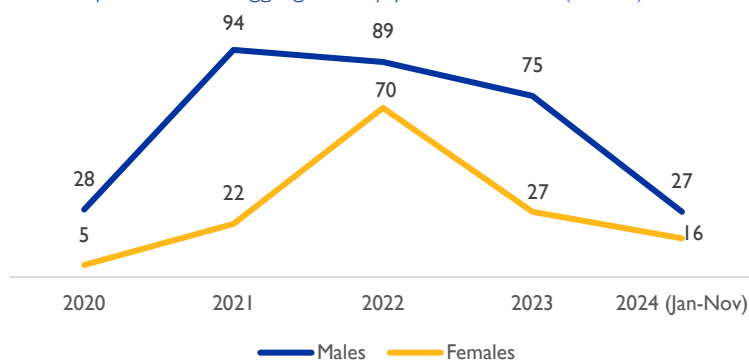
¹⁵ Despite calls at the international level for work to address the issue of migrant deaths and disappearances, there is still a need to expand and improve data coverage and completeness in most regions of the world. As such, Missing Migrants Project data are best understood as a **minimum estimate** of the true number of lives lost during migration. See [MMP Data Collection Guidelines](#) P. 3

¹⁶ *Mixed origins* refer to the cases where the origin of an individual cannot be determined, either because of contested regions, or inability to identify the exact location of death/disappearance.

MISSING MIGRANTS

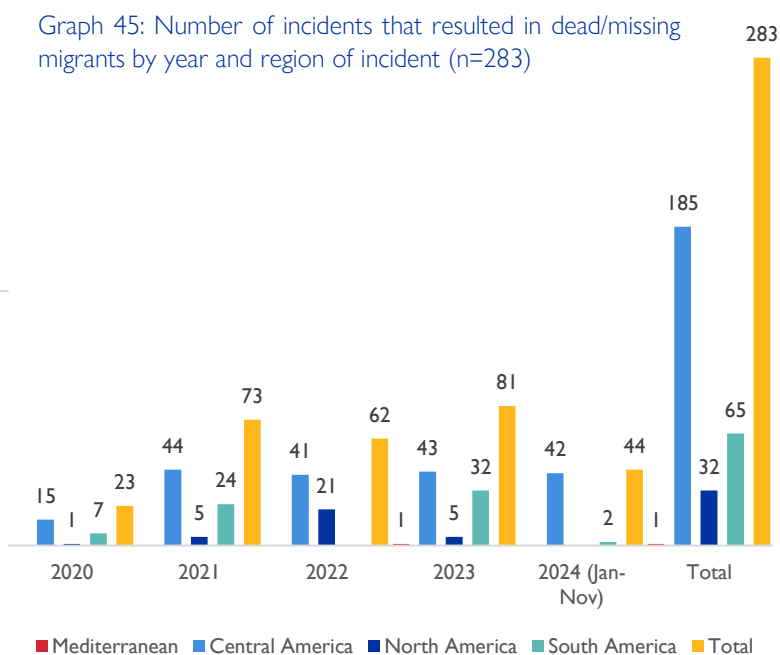
When looking at the sex disaggregation, MMP data revealed that out of the incidents reported between 2020 and 2024 (January–November), 69 per cent included the death/disappearance of males, and 31 per cent of females. 2021 was the year with most male deaths/disappearances, while 2022 was the year with the highest number of missing/dead females.

Graph 44: Sex disaggregation by year of incident (n=453)



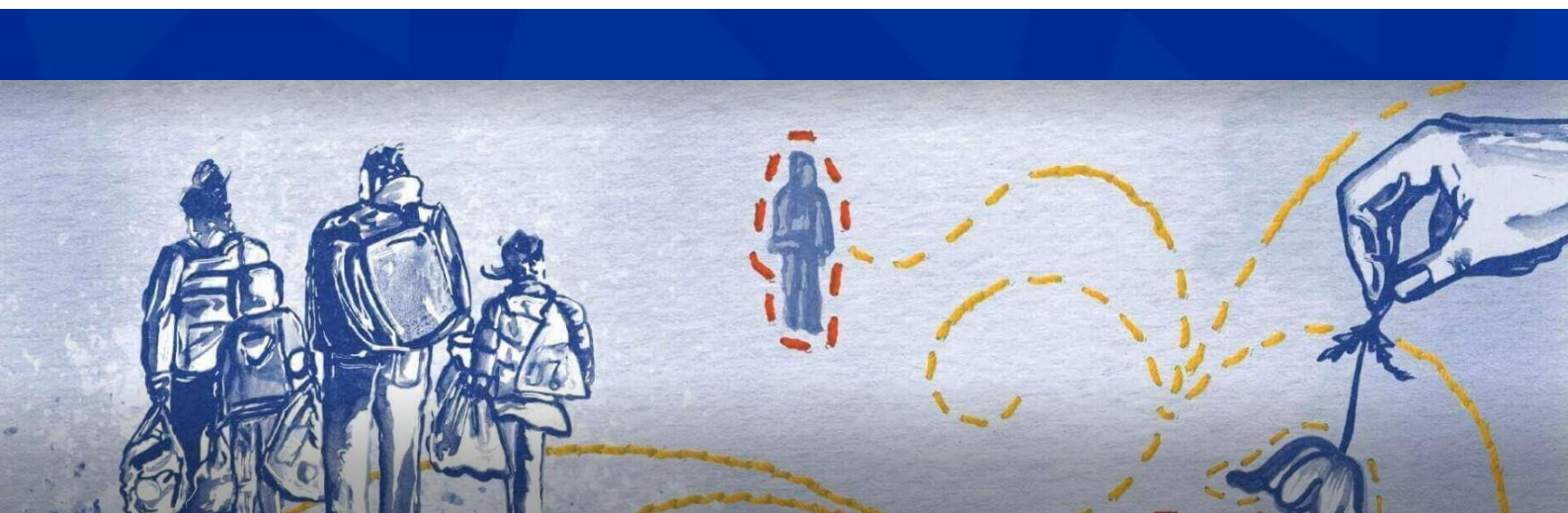
The bulk of these incidents was recorded in 2023, with 29 per cent (n=81) of the incidents occurring in this year, followed closely by 2021 with 26 per cent (n=73). To a lower extent, 2022 saw 22 per cent of these incidents (n=62), while January–November 2024 saw 16 per cent (n=44). Finally, 2020 recorded eight per cent (n=23) of the 283 incidents identified by the MMP.

Graph 45: Number of incidents that resulted in dead/missing migrants by year and region of incident (n=283)



Missing/dead migrants originating from the Caribbean

MMP data recorded 283 incidents with migrants that originated from the Caribbean but were reported missing/dead in other regions between 2020 and November 2024. Out of these, 185 were recorded in Central America, 65 in South America, 32 in North America, and one in the Mediterranean.



© IOM Missing Migrants

DISASTER DISPLACEMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL MIGRATION

Disaster Displacement in the English and Dutch Speaking Caribbean

Caribbean Small Island Developing States are highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change due to their topology, largely coastal population and exposed locations ([UNFCCC, 2023](#)). The evolving definition of tropical cyclones, driven by changing climate patterns, has highlighted the increasing unpredictability of storm intensity and frequency. Hurricane Beryl, the which struck on 1 July 2024, as a Category 4 storm—later intensifying to Category 5—was unprecedented so early in the Atlantic storm season. Over the following week, it caused significant loss, damage and internal displacement across four countries, primarily impacting Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, Jamaica, and Barbados, before also inflicting major damage in Belize. ([IOM, 2024](#))

Between 2012 and 2021, the wider Caribbean region registered an estimated 5.14 million new internal displacements due to disasters ([IOM, 2023](#); [IOM 2022](#)). However, comprehensive and regionally comparable estimates remain unavailable for the English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean, leaving significant gaps in understanding displacement patterns.

Displacement data in the Caribbean is fragmented across multiple sources, each with limitations in terms of coverage and methods: [IDMC data](#): In 2023, IDMC reported that a total of 519 persons were displaced by disasters in four countries: Antigua and Barbuda, (55%), Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (27%), followed by a smaller proportion in Guyana (13%) and Barbados (5%).

[EM-DAT](#) data¹⁵: Throughout 2024 a total of 285,530 persons were affected by disasters across the subregion. These included hurricanes impacting six countries (65% of the total number of affected persons), drought impacting one country (35%) and wildfires impacting a smaller share (800 persons or <1% of total affected across the subregion). However, it is important to note that EM-DAT tracks the number of affected persons, *not* entire displaced population, offering an incomplete picture of disaster displacement and environmental-related migration.

[Government Data](#): National disaster management agencies collect and publish displacement-related figures, but inconsistencies in assessment methodologies—ranging from immediate post-disaster surveys to longer-term needs assessments—limit their comparability. Additionally, some governments keep data internal for strategic or operational reasons, making regional aggregation difficult.

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) maintains a [Disaster Assessment Portal](#) organized by the sectoral effects of disasters using [various approaches](#) to quantify loss, damage and socio-economic impacts on different groups. While it provides valuable insights, post-2020 data remains fragmented or unpublished, further complicating regional analysis.

¹⁵The EM-DAT database records disasters occurrence and effects at country level worldwide from 1900 to the present. These data are compiled from various sources including UN agencies, non-governmental organizations, insurance companies, research institutes, and press agencies.

Table 4: Summary of Disasters and Affected Populations in English and Dutch-Speaking Caribbean Countries (2020-2024)

Country	Total Affected Population	Event Year	Hazard/Disaster Type
Barbados	2,500	2024	Hurricane Beryl
	179	2023	Tropical Storm Bret
	3,300	2021	Hurricane Elsa
Belize	162	2024	Cyclone Sara
	800	2024	Wildfire
	172,150	2022	Hurricane Lisa
	60,000	2020	Hurricane Eta
Grenada	107,008	2024	Hurricane Beryl
Guyana	500	2022	Flood
	34,500	2021	Flood
Jamaica	160,060	2024	Hurricane Beryl
Saint Lucia	5,500	2022	Floods
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	15,000	2024	Hurricane Beryl
	150	2023	Tropical Storm Bret
	13,300	2021	Volcanic Activity (La Soufriere)
	129	2021	Storm (Hurricane Elsa)
Suriname	10,100	2021	Floods
	9,000	2022	Floods
Trinidad and Tobago	100,000	2022	Floods

Source: [EM-DAT 2024](#)

Key Data Challenges for Disaster Displacement

A lack of up-to-date pre-impact data on vulnerable populations complicates disaster preparedness and policy decisions, while the absence of standardized methodologies. Inconsistent data collection by national agencies and fragmented post-disaster assessment methods further complicate mobility tracking regional data aggregation and response planning.

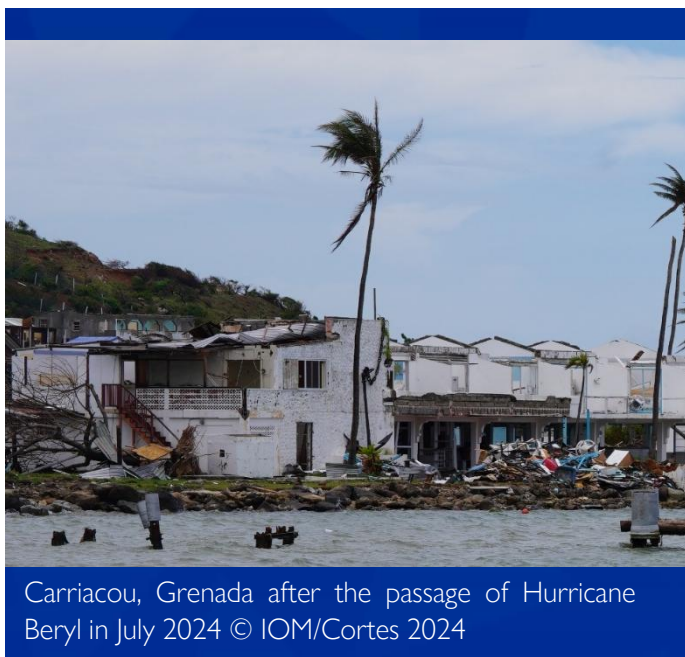
HUMAN MOBILITY IN THE CONTEXT OF DISASTERS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MIGRATION

Environmental-related Migration

Due to the topology of most Caribbean countries, they are at high risk of extensive environmental degradation from slow-onset disasters like rising sea levels and droughts. These environmental stresses disrupt livelihoods, particularly in natural resource dependent sectors like agriculture, which employed 11 per cent of the Caribbean workforce in 2021 ([CFR, 2023](#)).

Intensifying weather-related events destroy farmlands, crop yields, and livestock, potentially forcing communities with land-based livelihoods to migrate in search of better opportunities. ([CFR, 2023](#)). Due to the complex multicausality and multidirectional drivers of migration, most Caribbean countries often exclude climate and environmental factors as reasons for movement. This poses data challenges such as:

- Data gaps on migration drivers, particularly for slow-onset climate events, undermine policy responses, misallocate resources, and neglect the needs of climate-displaced individuals.
- Unreliable and incomplete data hinder comprehensive research on climate impacts, making it difficult to implement effective adaptation strategies such as climate-smart agriculture, resilient infrastructure, and risk insurance for displaced farmers and vulnerable groups ([IOM and CYEN, 2024](#)).
- Additionally, limited data on rural-urban migration obscures climate and environmental drivers, while the lack of disaggregated temperature data hinders assessments of urbanization's impact on local climate and livability ([ICCYC, 2024](#)).



Carriacou, Grenada after the passage of Hurricane Beryl in July 2024 © IOM/Cortes 2024

Active Mechanisms: Evacuation and Planned Relocation

Evacuation: Mobility has a strong potential to save lives particularly through evacuations and in some cases, planned relocations, although it is often a last resort option. For instance, during the La Soufrière volcanic eruption in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in 2021, up to 20,000 people were residing in high-risk zones in the north of the island ([IOM, 2021](#)). However, it is also true that if evacuation is not well managed, it can increase vulnerability and exacerbate emerging threats.

Data gaps and challenges exist prior, during, and after evacuations, such as defining vulnerable populations which is crucial for data collection and analysis. For example, St. Lucia identifies vulnerable people as children, youth, the elderly, and persons with disabilities, while Dominica lists elderly and the disabled people, under this category ([IOM, 2022](#)). Moreover, national statistics offices do not collect demographic data on LGBTQ+ population (using strict privacy and personal data protection protocols) in statistical measures in the context of climate-induced and disaster evacuations ([IOM, 2022](#)).

[The Cross-Border Evacuation Protocol](#)¹⁶ in the Eastern Caribbean guides activities across six phases of evacuation to ensure safe border crossings for affected populations in the event of disasters. It is supported by national governments, regional and international organizations, civil society, and other stakeholders. IOM is currently supporting CDEMA and by extension Participating States on the inclusion of human mobility considerations in disaster plans through the Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Strategy and Country Work Programmes (CWPs).

Planned Relocation: Planned Relocation can strengthen climate resilience but worsen displacement impacts if poorly executed. It must be voluntary, community-approved and supported by national policies to tailor to localized needs. (Pill, 2020 cf. [IOM, 2023](#)) Vulnerability assessments could bolster future planning efforts, along with improved documentation of planned relocation practices to highlight best practices in the subregion.

IOM DTM Data Collection on Disaster Displacement and Climate-Induced Mobility

IOM's Displacement Tracking Tool has been mobilized by several country offices in the region to conduct primary data collection for humanitarian response in the context of Hurricane Beryl, and enhanced disaster preparedness in Trinidad and Tobago considering the needs that may arise for vulnerable populations, particularly migrants. These are highlighted in the following pages for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (see next page) and for Trinidad and Tobago (see page 25).

¹⁶ The Cross-border Evacuation Protocol is part of a larger project led by [IOM Dominica](#) promoting a human security approach to disaster displacement and environmental migration policies in several Eastern Caribbean countries. Country-specific assessments are available for Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Grenada, among others.

DTM DATA MAPPING IN THE ENGLISH AND DUTCH-SPEAKING CARIBBEAN

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Rapid Needs Assessment Round I

Hurricane Beryl made landfall in Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines on the morning of 1 July 2024, before passing along the southwest of Jamaica between 2 and 3 July 2024. Extreme winds and storm surges in Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines prompted a national level 1 emergency response with collaboration from the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA).

In response to this evolving context, the **Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)** conducted a rapid needs assessment, as part of the CDEMA **Rapid Needs Assessment Team (RNAT)** from 3-5 July 2024 in collaboration with National Emergency Management Office (NEMO-Saint Vincent and the Grenadines). Data was collected using a Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Rapid Assessment form to structure the questions. Information was obtained through face-to-face semi-structured key informant interviews in both established and informal shelters, supplemented by observations from IOM staff.

Table 5: Shelter name, Location and Occupancy

Shelter Name	Parish	Total Occupancy
Calliaqua Townhall	St George	16
Fairhall Government School	St George	48
Kingstown Government School	St George	92
Church of God World Wide Mission	St George	18
Calliaqua Anglican Primary School	St George	25
Total	-	199

At the time of data collection, a total of 199 shelterees were identified as per the table above. Calliaqua Townhall and Church of God and were mainly sheltering persons displaced from within the community, whereas Calliaqua Anglican Primary School and Kingstown Government school were also sheltering persons from outside the immediate community. Fairhall Government school was sheltering persons displaced from both within and outside of the community.

Graph 46: Sex breakdown of shelter occupants

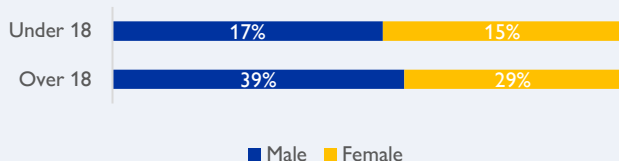


Table 6: Percentage of shelters reporting top 5 shelter-related priority needs (N=4)

Shelter-related Priority Needs	% of shelters expressing this shelter-related need
Basic electrical items (wiring, switches, sockets)	75
Flashlight	50
Generator	50
Roofing materials	50
Timber	50
Windows / window frames	50
Basic tools (hammer, screwdriver, wrenches)	25
Bricks / stone blocks	25

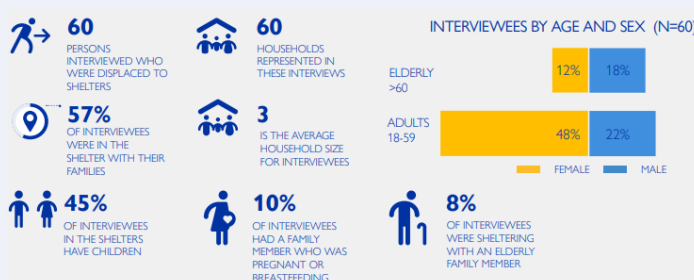
This section provides a snapshot of the data collection activities that IOM's DTM has conducted in the region. Only data collected after 2020 is included.

Interviews with Persons Living in shelters

Further data collection in emergency shelters on Mainland Saint Vincent was conducted on 15-16 July by a volunteer from the Taraji Foundation, Ministry of Education staff, and one IOM DTM staff member. Shelters were selected based on NEMO Shelter Coordinator data, indicating most residents were displaced from the Grenadine Islands. Face-to-face structured interviews were conducted with individuals aged 18 and above, who all provided consent.

Sixty interviews with individuals were conducted on key sectors such as income, health, WASH, and protection services, highlighting vulnerabilities requiring targeted support. The survey also assessed movement intentions to gauge shelter occupancy and identify needs for transitioning to permanent housing.

Graph 47: Demographics and Family Composition

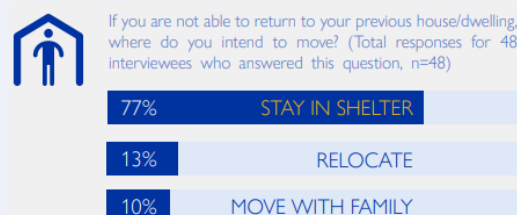


Graph 48: Housing Damage Level and Access to Income



DTM identified the lack of access to non-food items including clothes, bedding/towels and items for babies and infants as the sectoral need where satisfaction was lowest among interviewees two weeks after the passage of Hurricane Beryl.

Graph 49: Movement Intentions among Interviewees (n=48)



In terms of moving or relocating from shelters, shelter materials and money for rent were the two largest priority needs.

Trinidad and Tobago

Venezuelan migrants' presence in Trinidad and Tobago

Trinidad and Tobago has historically maintained strong human and cultural ties with Venezuela due to their geographic proximity. However, the ongoing socio-economic crisis in Venezuela has escalated these exchanges, leading to unprecedented migratory flows into Trinidad and Tobago. In response to this evolving context, the **Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)** has played a crucial role in shedding light on the realities of Venezuelan migrants, conducting five rounds of data collection between 2020 and 2023¹⁷.

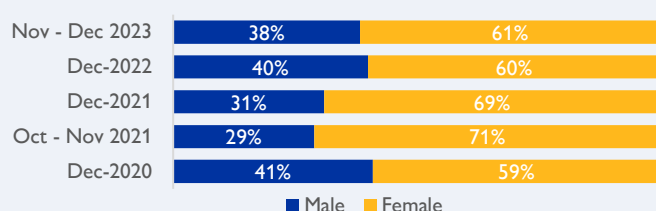
The DTM's efforts have been instrumental in identifying the demographic profiles, needs, challenges, and intentions of Venezuelan migrants on the move. As migration dynamics and data requirements have evolved, the DTM has adapted its data collection strategies, employing a comprehensive approach that combines qualitative and quantitative methods to address key thematic areas.

One of DTM's core methodologies has been Key Informant (KI) interviews, engaging representatives from national authorities, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders closely working with Venezuelan nationals. These interviews provided critical insights into preliminary migrant profiles and facilitated respondent referrals for subsequent surveys.

Building on this foundation, direct surveys with Venezuelan migrants were conducted to capture a deeper understanding of their circumstances. These surveys have highlighted the diverse challenges Venezuelan nationals face in addressing socio-economic vulnerabilities and seeking sustainable livelihoods in Trinidad and Tobago.

The DTM's work in Trinidad and Tobago underscores its critical role in producing evidence-based data to inform humanitarian and development programming. By capturing the voices and experiences of Venezuelan migrants, the DTM enables stakeholders to design targeted interventions that address the complex needs of this population.

Graph 50: Sex of respondents by data collection period

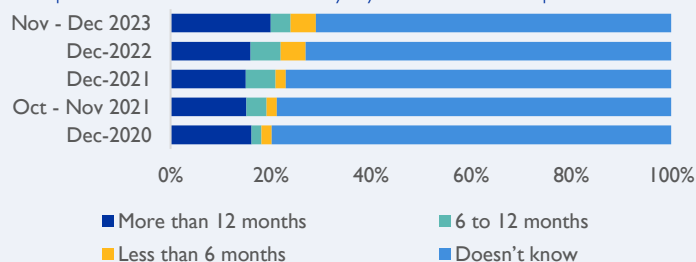


The five rounds of data collection revealed that female respondents significantly surpassed male respondents. Sex disaggregated data is key to put into context sex-specific needs, protection elements and challenges of migrant populations.

¹⁷ **Round 1:** Data collected between 1-31 December 2020 with 950 respondents. **Round 2:** Data collected between October and November 2021 with 1,376 respondents; **Round 3:** Data collected between 1-31 December 2021 with 188 respondents; **Round 4:** Data collected between November and December 2022 with 1,323 respondents; **Round 5:** Data collected between November and December 2023 with 1,395 respondents.

For example, in round 5, DTM identified that 17 per cent of the female respondents were pregnant or breastfeeding. This data can inform on certain protection elements and resources that IOM, governments and other humanitarian agencies can deploy on the ground to support migrant mothers in their journey. (i.e. access to health).

Graph 51: Intended time of stay by data collection period



In the five data collection rounds, DTM identified that the majority of respondents did not know for how long they intend to stay in Trinidad and Tobago. This was followed by those intending to stay for more than 12 months.

Graph 52: Main difficulties in their migration journey

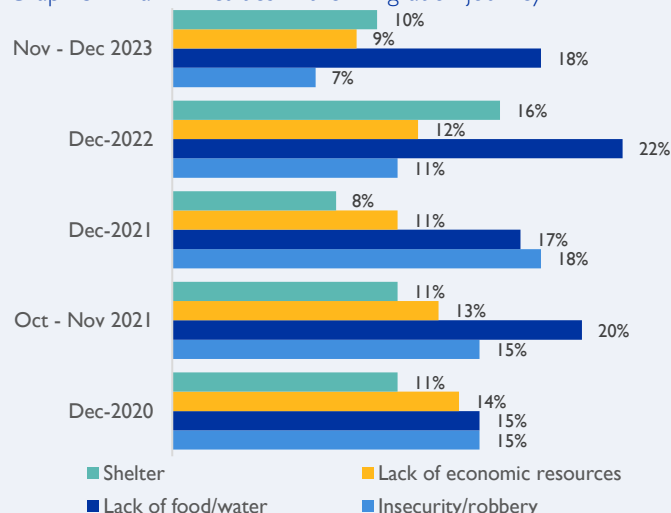


Table 7: First priority needs of migrants

First priority need	Dec 2020	Oct - Nov 2021	Dec 2021	Dec 2022	Nov - Dec 2023
Food	20%	18%	20%	20%	22%
Medical care	21%	14%	14%	13%	12%
Legal assistance	25%	12%	14%	9%	9%
Employment	34%	13%	14%	19%	17%
Education for children		13%	13%		
English courses		9%	10%		8%
Documentation assistance		7%	4%	11%	13%
Education				11%	

DTM identified shelter, lack of food/water, lack of economic resources, and insecurity/robbery as top challenges for migrants on the move in the five rounds of data collection. Additionally, among the first priority needs mentioned were food, medical care, legal assistance, employment, education for children, English courses, documentations assistance, and education for adults.

Emergency preparedness and climate induced mobility in Trinidad and Tobago

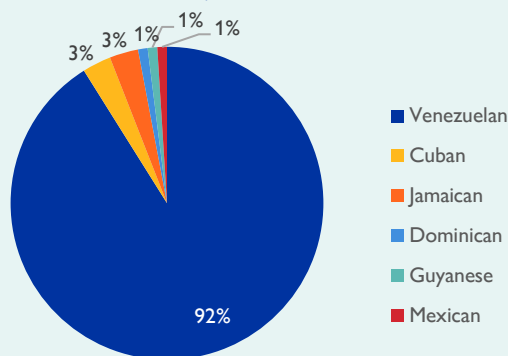
Small Island Developing States (SIDs) are classified as the most vulnerable to climate change. According to the World Bank, Trinidad and Tobago is vulnerable to increased temperature, changes in rainfall patterns, sea-level rise, increased flooding, and increased frequency and intensity of hurricanes. Other vulnerabilities include hillside and coastal erosion, as well as loss of coastal habitats, and biodiversity. Slow-onset environmental changes are also significant, with projections indicating that these challenges will increasingly influence mobility patterns in the years to come.

These climate conditions do not discriminate between populations; migrants, like host communities, are profoundly affected. However, the impacts of disasters and emergencies are not uniform across all individuals or groups. Migrants' experiences are shaped by intersecting factors such as their legal status, language barriers, access to resources, and social networks. Consequently, disaster preparedness, response, and recovery strategies must address the diverse identities and needs of migrant populations to be truly inclusive and effective.

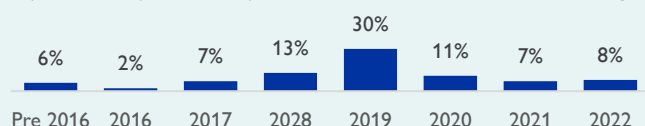
Recognizing these critical needs, the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) launched a [survey on Emergency Preparedness and Response \(DTM EPR\) in May 2024 in Trinidad and Tobago](#). This initiative seeks to assess the unpredictable and climate-induced challenges facing migrants while providing actionable data to strengthen the country's capacity to respond to emergencies. By equipping disaster management teams and policymakers with evidence-based insights, the DTM EPR aims to inform strategic interventions that can mitigate risks and enhance the resilience of vulnerable populations, including migrants.

In this edition of the DTM EPR, **179 migrants** and **20 KIs** who work closely with migrants and/or within the area of disaster and/or emergency management were interviewed. It collected data on migrant's profiles, needs, challenges, and emergency preparedness and response capacities in the country as it relates to migrants. This data underscores the importance of integrating migrant-specific vulnerabilities and capacities into national emergency preparedness frameworks to ensure no one is left behind in times of crisis.

Graph 53: Nationalities of respondents



Graph 54: Respondent's year of arrival to Trinidad and Tobago



KIs reported that the main protection services available at emergency shelters during crises and emergencies include social workers (19%), trauma and stress recovery services (13%), and case management for violence survivors (13%).

Sixty-seven per cent of KIs indicated that emergency shelters do not satisfy the main needs of migrants during crises and emergencies. KIs (n=10) further indicated that this may be due to the following reasons, language barriers (50%), lack of consideration for migrants despite operational guidelines (30%) and discrimination (20%).

Further examination of migrants' feelings of safety when accessing humanitarian aid during a crises or emergency in Trinidad and Tobago revealed that 50 per cent of respondents felt safe when accessing humanitarian aid services during a crises or emergency in Trinidad and Tobago. However, of those who did not feel safe (n=89), top reasons for those feelings included discrimination (30%) and language barrier (17%).

Respondents further highlighted several avenues where they access humanitarian aid including through humanitarian organizations (46%), non-profit organizations (27%) and the government (13%) as shown in Graph 23.

Concerning migrant inclusion in disaster preparedness and response, 66 per cent of the surveyed population did not think that migrants are included in emergency preparedness and response in Trinidad and Tobago. A total of 58 per cent of KIs shared a similar view.

Table 8: Current measures to include migration and internal displacement in EPR (identified by KIs)

Migration	Internal Displacement
Strategic Planning, Policy Adoption and Project Development	Research and Maintenance of Vulnerable Databases, Shelter Mapping, Special Needs Survey, Vulnerability Mapping, Impact Assessment
Awareness/Advocacy through use of Bilingual staff	Emergency Housing Placement Protocols, Planned Relocation, Medium-term Housing and Short-term Rental Assistance Programmes
Research, Risk, Impact and Vulnerability Assessments	Grant Assistance and Provision of Basic Necessities – Food, Clothes, Shelter, Transportation
Service Delivery and Identification of Service Gaps	Collaborate with national Disaster Management Agencies
Collaborating with Regional Corporations and national Emergency Response Agencies	Crisis Intervention
Training and Capacity Building	Training in Shelter Management, Spanish Language for Emergency Responders

Regarding migrant preparedness, 91 per cent reported that they did not have an emergency plan, and 79 per cent of respondents indicated that they did not possess a basic emergency or disaster supplies kit. Added to this, 93 per cent of respondents indicated that they did not receive any awareness or training on emergency preparedness within the last year.

KIs identified several challenges faced by migrants during crises and emergencies. The top three challenges identified included language barrier (20%), discrimination (14%) and lack of access to social welfare (12%). Additionally, 20 per cent of the surveyed population indicated that they did not have access to relief items during crises and emergencies.

KIs also highlighted several gaps in the provision of support and protection to migrants during crises and emergencies within the following thematic areas: Communication, Cultural Competence, Resources, as well as Planning and Policy.

Guyana

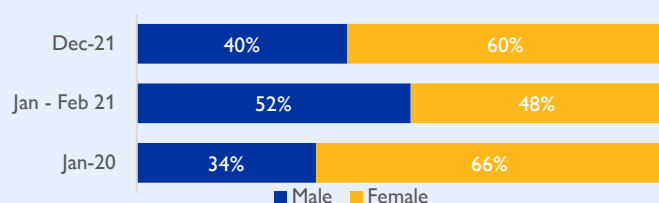
Surveys with Venezuelan nationals in Guyana

Countries across Latin America and the Caribbean are experiencing the largest population movement in their modern history, driven by the massive outflow of migrants and refugees from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Guyana, sharing a border with Venezuela, is significantly affected by this crisis, witnessing a growing influx of Venezuelan migrants into its territory.

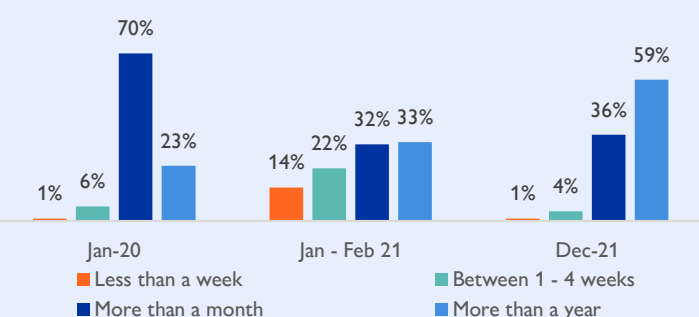
In response, between 2020 and 2021 DTM has conducted three rounds of data collection through surveys with Venezuelan migrants in Guyana.¹⁸ These surveys were designed to create comprehensive profiles of the migrant population, shedding light on their migratory routes, economic and labour conditions, living situations, and primary protection needs.

By capturing the experiences and vulnerabilities of Venezuelan migrants in Guyana, the DTM played a critical role in shaping effective, targeted responses to this unprecedented migration crisis. Its work highlights the importance of robust data in driving sustainable solutions for both displaced populations and the communities that welcome them.

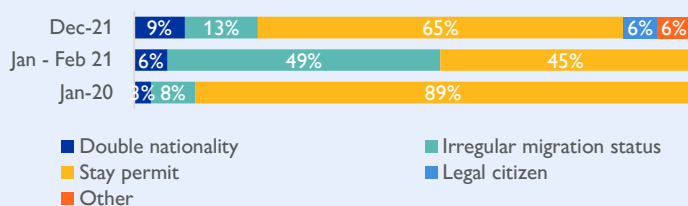
Graph 55: Sex of respondents by data collection period



Graph 56: Time spent in Guyana by data collection period



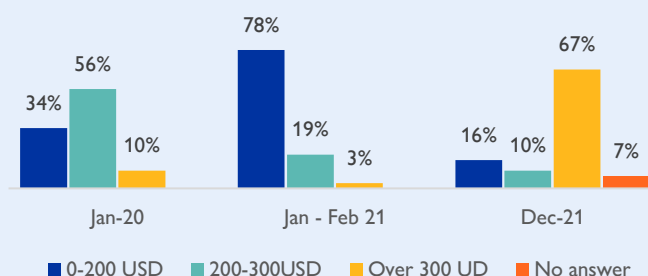
Graph 57: Migration status by data collection period



¹⁸ [Round 1](#): Data collected in January 2020 with 90 respondents in Mahdia region 8. [Round 2](#): Data collected between January and February 2021 with 298 respondents in Maburuma region 1; [Round 3](#): Data collected between 1-14 December 2021 with 1,363 respondents in region 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, and 9.

Respondents interviewed in January 2020 were predominantly holders of stay permits (89%), followed by those with irregular migration status (8%) and individuals with dual nationality (3%). In the January–February 2021 interviews, respondents were almost evenly split between having a stay permit (45%) and an irregular migration status (49%). The December 2021 interviews revealed that 65 per cent of respondents had a stay permit, 13 per cent had an irregular migration status and nine per cent held dual nationality.

Graph 58: Cost of trip by data collection period



Among the 90 respondents interviewed in January 2020, DTM found that over half (56%) spent between 200 and 300 USD on their migratory journey to Guyana. In contrast, the majority (78%) of the 298 migrants interviewed between January and February 2021 reported spending between 0 and 200 USD on their travels. Lastly, out of the 1,363 migrants interviewed in December 2021, 67% indicated that they had spent over 300 USD on their journey to Guyana.

Table 9: Top 10, first priority needs of migrants by data collection period

First priority needs	Jan-20	Jan - Feb 21	Dec-21
NFIs	40%	5%	3%
Income generating activities	24%	32%	37%
Document assistance	13%		
Legal assistance	12%	1%	15%
Accommodation	3%	7%	4%
Safety/security	2%	15%	
Food	2%	34%	15%
Education/training	2%	4%	3%
Medical care		1%	11%
WASH		1%	8%

DTM identified Non-Food Items (NFIs) (40%), income-generating activities (24%), and document assistance as the top three first priority needs among the 90 migrants interviewed in January 2020.

For those interviewed between January and February 2021 (n=298), DTM identified that the top three first priority needs shifted to food (34%), income-generating activities (32%), and safety and security (15%).

Amongst the 1,363 respondents interviewed in December 2021, 37 per cent reported income generating activities as their top priority need. This was followed by legal assistance and food (15% response rate each), and medical care (11%).

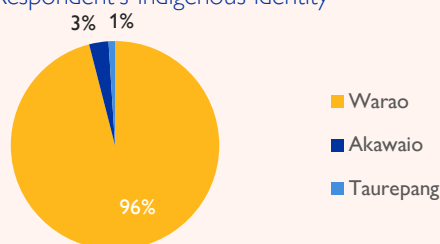
Surveys with indigenous Venezuelan migrants in Guyana

Indigenous peoples represent approximately 2.8 per cent of Venezuela's population. According to the 2011 Indigenous Census, 51 distinct Indigenous nations are distributed across states such as Zulia, Amazonas, Bolívar, Delta Amacuro, and others. Among these, the Warao people have been particularly affected by the crisis, leading to a significant influx of their population into Guyana.

To enhance the understanding of Venezuelan migration dynamics in Guyana, DTM conducted 162 surveys with indigenous migrants from Venezuela between 19–28 March 2023 in the 11 Flow Monitoring Points. They aimed to identify the diverse indigenous nations present in Guyana and shed light on their specific concerns, needs, and vulnerabilities.

This focused effort underscored the importance of capturing data on indigenous populations, who often face distinct challenges and vulnerabilities during migration. By gathering this data, DTM enables evidence-based interventions that address the unique experiences of indigenous migrants, ensuring their inclusion in humanitarian and development efforts.

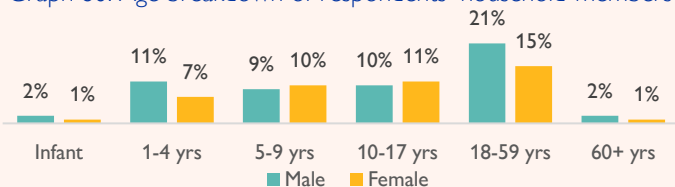
Graph 59: Respondent's indigenous identity



Ninety-six per cent, of the interviews were done with respondents of Warao heritage, followed by Akawaio (3%) and Taurepang (1%).

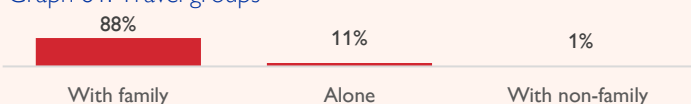
Additionally, 90 per cent of the respondents indicated that their first language was indigenous, while eight per cent spoke Spanish as their first language, and two per cent spoke English. They explained that even though they are Indigenous, they do not speak their native language because of the locations where they resided.

Graph 60: Age breakdown of respondents' household members



Three per cent of respondent households had infants, 37 per cent had small children between the ages of 1 to 9, 21 per cent had adolescents between ages 10 to 17, 36 per cent had adults between ages 18 to 59, and three per cent had seniors.

Graph 61: Travel groups



Eighty-eight per cent, the majority, said they travelled with their families, 11 per cent said they travelled alone, and one per cent travelled without a family group.

Graph 62: Mode of arrival



Graph 63: Difficulties experienced in their journey*

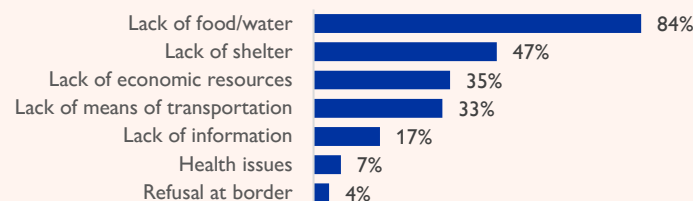


Table 10: Top reasons for leaving and for selecting destination*
(Those marked as very important by respondents)

Reasons for leaving home country	%	Reasons for selecting country of destination	%
Food/water shortages	59%	Find work opportunities	56%
Lack of Employment/livelihood	52%	Find a job/higher income	54%
Rising market prices	50%	Obtain health care	35%
Lack of economic growth (country level)	41%	Education for children	30%
Medical services/poor quality of healthcare	38%	To improve lifestyle	19%
Financial problems/issues to access to cash	37%	Education for self	14%

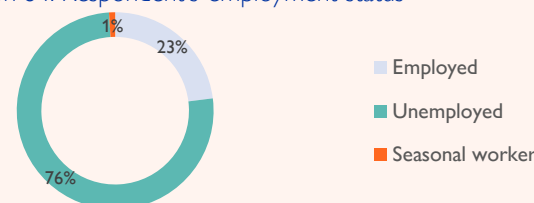
Table 11: Main needs*

(Those marked as very important by respondents)

Needs	%
Livelihoods	21%
Food and nutrition	20%
Nappies	19%
Special diet for pregnant women/ sick persons	19%
Special diet for children/infants	19%
Communication	18%
Feminine Hygiene items	17%
Water	17%
Access to education	15%
Sanitation and hygiene	14%
Medical care	14%

Seventy-six per cent of respondents were unemployed, 23 per cent stated they were employed full-time, and one per cent did seasonal work. Sex disaggregation showed that 48 per cent of the female respondents and 28 per cent of the male respondents were unemployed.

Graph 64: Respondent's employment status



Respondents were asked if they considered returning home; 82 per cent said no, 14 per cent said they were considering it, and four per cent said yes. Of the respondents that said yes, two per cent indicated that they would return when the Venezuela crisis is over, while the remaining two per cent said they would return to Venezuela in a few months.

Dominica

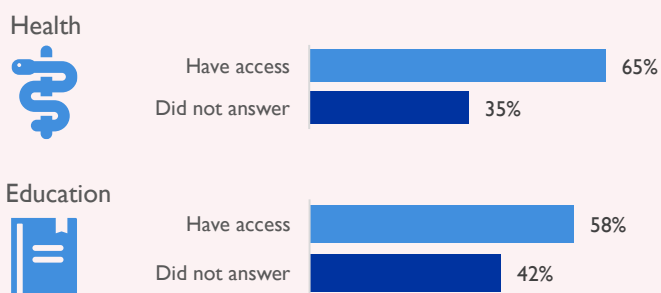
Baseline Assessment of Migrant Presence

Dominica's location in the Caribbean has made it particularly susceptible to natural hazards and disasters such as hurricanes. There is a substantial need for up-to-date data on population size and the distribution of citizens and migrants in the country, to inform disaster risk reduction and preparedness. The latest government population census was conducted in 2011, and with the 2021 census still ongoing, more recent information on the characteristics of the migrant population is required to prepare the population for natural hazards and disasters. To better understand the distribution of the migrant population within the country, DTM conducted a [Rapid Baseline Assessment \(RBA\), between 30 August - 2 September 2022](#). The exercise consisted of 22 key informant (KI) interviews in the 10 parishes of the Commonwealth of Dominica to obtain information on migrant presence and their main characteristics. Among the interviewed KIs were government officials, community leaders and community members from their respective parishes. This information was then utilized to build the methodology and sampling frame for a DTM national survey on migrant sociodemographic characteristics, their main needs and intentions.

Demographics of migrants noted by KIs

During the interviews KIs identified the presence of migrants from several countries including Haiti, Saint Lucia, and Nigeria, as well as a plethora of European countries including, France, Germany, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and others. Spanish speaking migrants, assumed to be from the Dominican Republic and Cuba, were also noted.

Graph 65: Reported availability of services

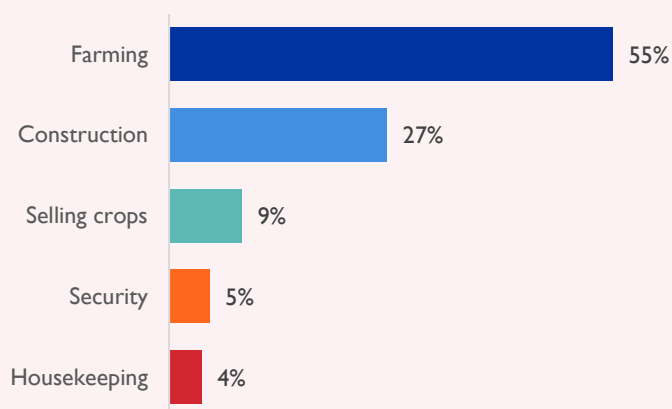


Out of all the KIs who answered the question, all of them believed that migrants and their children living in the community have access to school and health services.

Benefits of integration

Nearly 100 per cent of all KIs mentioned that they believe migrants are well integrated into the community and that they have positive relationships with the locals. Among the various benefits mentioned, KIs indicated that migrants are willing to work, and their presence benefits the community economically. KIs also reported that migrants farm and sell products which bring food diversity to local households.

Graph 66: Percentage of KIs that mentioned migrants' labour activities



More than 50 per cent of the 22 KIs that answered the question regarding the main labour activity of migrants in Dominica, think that migrants work as farmers, 27 per cent perceive that they work in construction, followed by selling crops in the market (9%), as security guards (5%) and in house-keeping (5%).

Graph 67: Migrants' main needs according to KIs



Thirty-four per cent of the KIs mentioned jobs and shelter/housing as the two top needs of migrants. This was followed by access to income (11%), civil documents (11%), work permit (3%), legal assistance (3%) and food (3%).

CONCLUSION

In light of the evolving migration landscape in the English and Dutch-Speaking Caribbean, and more widely in the region, this report underscores the complex interplay of factors driving human mobility, including economic conditions, political instability, environmental vulnerabilities, and policy shifts. Migration trends and displacement are multi-layered in the subregion and while perfect data may not be available, it is essential to analyze available data to identify key proxies that provide insights into the sub-region's evolving mobility trends.

The **Migrant Stocks and Demographics** section brings together UNDESA mid year 2024 International Migration statistics, illustrating the shifting gender demographic and main nationalities hosted in each country.

The next section, **Vulnerable Populations on the Move**, focuses on Venezuelan, Haitian and Cuban nationals through various data sources including R4V, UNHCR and data collected via the Displacement Tracking Matrix by IOM Haiti. While the vast majority of movements are through regular pathways, a significant number of people move in search of international protection, livelihood opportunities as the declining conditions in countries of origin persist. This report also analyses data collected by countries serving as origin/destination countries for deportations and forced returns via the DTM Haiti data and statistics published by Department of Homeland Security (DHS) on returns and forced returns. These remain key considerations in migration governance and are crucial to attending to needs of vulnerable populations on the move throughout the larger region.

At the same time, **Intraregional Mobility** frameworks such as CARICOM's free movement system highlight ongoing efforts to facilitate regular migration pathways. While comprehensive data is not fully publicly available yet, UNDESA mid year 2024 data are used as a proxy to illustrate the intraregional mobility landscapes of CARICOM and OECS countries.

As part of the other data analysed on **Regular Pathways** to Migration in the subregion, this report includes data residence permits issued for Venezuelan nationals as well as the Citizenship by Investment programs in select countries, and data from labour force surveys on the number of work permits issued in Caribbean countries by nationality.

Finally, **Remittance** inflows and outflows within the subregion are analysed using World Bank Remittance Flows 2023 data, the last full-year data available.

Data from the IOM **Missing Migrants** project is also analysed, showing that migration through irregular routes in the Caribbean remains unsafe and deadly.

Finally, **Disaster Displacement** in the Caribbean is a pressing and complex challenge, exacerbated by the increasing frequency and intensity of climate-related events. While available data highlights significant displacement trends, major gaps remain, particularly in the English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean, hindering comprehensive regional analysis.

Evacuations, though lifesaving, require improved management and inclusive policies to ensure the protection of all vulnerable groups. Furthermore, **environmental migration** remains underreported, limiting the ability of policymakers to address climate-induced mobility effectively. Strengthening data collection, harmonizing methodologies, and integrating human mobility considerations into disaster management frameworks are essential steps toward enhancing preparedness and resilience in the region.

In conclusion, despite the relative limitations in data availability and consistency, it is crucial to move beyond the pursuit of perfect data and maximize the use of existing information to strengthen existing preparedness for disaster response. Additionally, a deeper exploration of regional and subregional mobility trends is necessary to inform evidence-based policies that are adaptive, inclusive and context-specific for migrant and host populations.



Cash assistance distribution at a local church in Icos, Trinidad and Tobago © IOM/Cortes 2024