

ASSESSMENT ON



THE NEEDS OF MIGRANT “CAMINANTES”

ALONG THE THREE ROUTES BETWEEN BOGOTÁ AND CÚCUTA

OBJECTIVES

1

Reach a closer and extensive understanding of the situations and risks the migrant “caminantes” population, continuously moving along the different routes of the country, is exposed to.

2

Recognize opportunities for organizational action for the care and accompaniment of migrant “caminantes”.



PRESENTATION

This report is the result of an exercise carried out in three routes used by the “caminantes” to reach different regions of Colombia or of neighboring countries: Bogotá - Tunja; the Lizama, between Bucaramanga and Barrancabermeja, and the Bucaramanga - Cúcuta route. Each of them has complex characteristics that strongly impact women, girls, boys and men who continually use them.

Two methodologies were used to carry out the exercise:

Observation:

Through which the situations and conditions that affect the journey and hinder the progress of migrant travelers were identified.

Inquiry:

Implementing two basic survey and semi-structured interview instruments, created in Kobo. With these instruments, some of the “caminantes” and community/church leaders were asked to answer some questions.



44% of people surveyed were women, **56%** were men.



44% of the people that make up the “caminantes” families surveyed were children.



In terms of household composition, **30%** of the migrant population are women and **70%** men.



2% of women are pregnant and **6%** are nursing mothers. **4%** of people have some sort of disability.



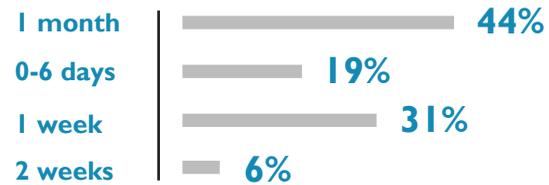
General aspects

ENTRY TO THE COUNTRY

100% of the households and people surveyed have entered the country irregularly using “trochas” and alternate routes.



Entry time frame



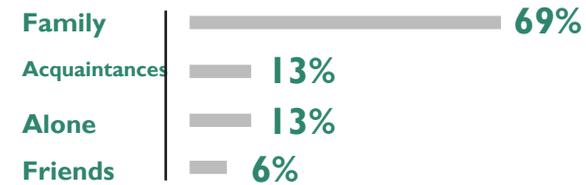
44% of those surveyed and their families entered the country more than a month ago, some of them are even on their way back to their country.

Travel time



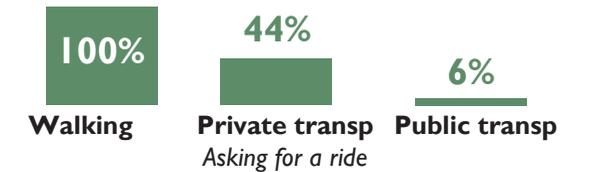
12% of those surveyed have been traveling the different routes for more than a month. 75% have been walking between 1 day and two weeks and 13% have been traveling for more than 15 days.

Traveling with



69% of those surveyed are traveling with their family. 13% are traveling alone or with people they met on the road and 6% are traveling with friends.

Means of transport



100% of those surveyed have walked long distances; 50% also said they have found transportation, either public (paid) or private.

75%

of those surveyed state that their reason for migrating is the difficulty to find a job, which leads to the shortage of resources to meet their basic needs.



EXPECTATIONS FOR THE FUTURE



37%

Return to their country



38%

Live in Colombia



13%

Go to another country



13%

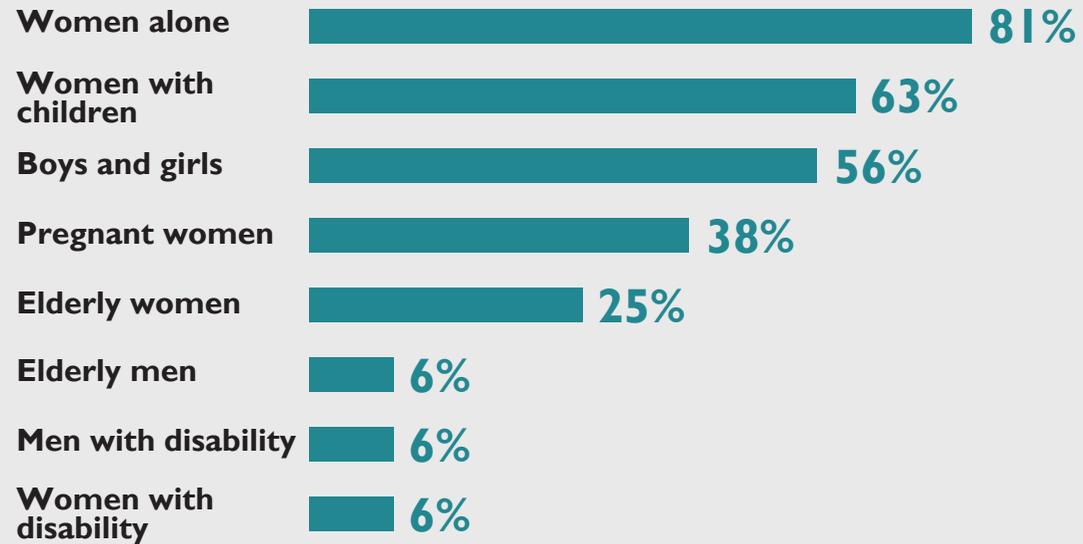
Don't know

Responding to this question, 37% said they see themselves returning to their country; 38% said they want to settle in Colombia in cities such as Bogotá, Cali, Medellín and Santa Marta, which are the main destination for this population. 13% said they want to go to another country, among which Ecuador and Peru stand out. Similarly, this same percentage responded not being sure about what will happen in their future as migrants.

Most of the respondents have family and friends in the places they will go to. This generates expectations of a better life for them and their families when they arrive at their destinations.

PROTECTION

Who are at higher risk?



Risks along the journey



INTIMIDATION /
THREATS



DEGRADING
TREATMENT /
XENOPHOBIA



THEFT / ROBBERY

MAIN RISKS FOR CHILDREN

- Attack/Physical violence
- Accidents
- Disappearance/separation
- Cold weather/hypothermia
- Murder
- Kidnapping
- Aggressions by criminal groups
- Dehydration
- Malnutrition
- Tiredness



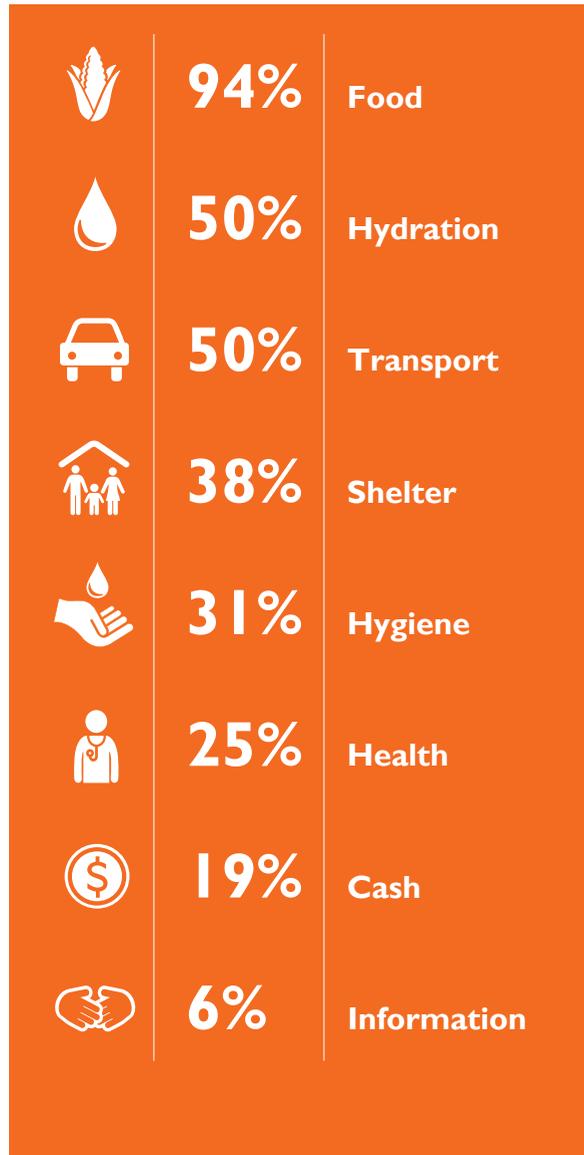
Unaccompanied Children

25% of those surveyed report having found girls and boys traveling unaccompanied.

75% have accompanied them on their journey and **50%** report having guided them.

Most of the minors traveling alone are **adolescents** and are seen in small groups.

NEEDS



Aid available throughout the route

The “caminantes” surveyed said they have received help in their journey. 88% have received food, 50% personal hygiene items, 38% health care as well as hydration; 25% shelter and 6% transportation. 19% refer to other aids such as: toiletry kits, communication, dentistry, food, baby clothes and blankets.

Shelter

56% of those surveyed haven't used shelters to stay overnight. When inquiring why 67% said that due to the lack of money, 44% because they don't know where they are located, 11% said the ones they found were overcrowded and 22% said they haven't found this kind of places on their way.

PLACES WHERE THEY HAVE SPENT THE NIGHT

50%
on the road

25%
temporary shelter

6%
empty lot

63%
others

Toll post, service station, street, homestay and abandoned building.



FINDINGS

- In reference to the aid received by the “caminantes”, 19% of them said they received it in a tent and the same percentage said that in a shelter. 25% said they received it in a mobile station and 44% within the city, in a toll post, at a bus stop or parking lot.
- 75% recognize the Red Cross as facilitator of the aids received, 37% recognize organizations, such as IOM, WFP, Samaritans Purse, UNHCR and WV; 13% report having received aid from the community along the way and 6 % from the church.
- 62% of respondents don't have access to communication or don't have mobile phones, reason why they prefer 'face-to-face' information. 38% prefer the access to information using social networks.
- The information they would expect to receive: 31% on protection issues, 38% related to programs for migrants, 25% on the Migrant Population Protection Status, 19% access to rights / health / education and 44% refer to other needs in information.
- Hopelessness can be seen in the families returning to Venezuela; their expressions are of not having found what they expected, despite the fact they were away for more than a year.
- The “caminantes” face quite strong weather conditions and sudden changes in temperature along the way.
- Aid is available only in certain areas, mainly in border areas, and does not reach the entire route.
- A small number of shelters were found on the routes.
- There is fear among the population, especially due to the attacks by criminal groups.
- The needs of “caminantes” require an immediate response.
- Local governments and the population, in general, express lack of interest and/or xenophobia, but there are also local authorities interested in responding to the crisis.





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We want to thank all the people who made this experience possible, the “caminantes” women, girls, boys and men who despite the conditions always had a word of gratitude for us; the partners who received us and shared with us their experiences and expectations regarding the migrant “caminantes”; each one of WV officials who from their knowledge and capacity were committed to face all the challenges that emerged during the journey.