

### KEY FIGURES

**18.5K**

**MIGRANTS ENTERED PANAMA FROM 23-30 SEPTEMBER, ABOUT 20% OF ALL ENTRIES IN 2021**

**1.5M+**

**CENTRAL AMERICANS & MEXICANS ENCOUNTERED AT US-MEXICO BORDER IN 2021**

### LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN: **MIGRANTS & REFUGEES**

#### FROM HAITI

UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF and OHCHR are urging for a comprehensive regional approach in responding to Haitian migrants' protection needs, while also warning that the situation will likely worsen following the 14 August earthquake's impact on already-limited capacities to receive returning Haitians who had fled from violence and insecurity. At least 19,000 in the capital of Port-au-Prince have been displaced by violence in 2021 alone. Nearly 1 in every 4 people live in extreme poverty, while nearly half the population faces acute food insecurity.

These flows have become evident in Panama, who report more than 88,500 irregular migrant entries, mostly people from Haiti so far in 2021. This 30 September figure indicates that 18,500 more migrants entered Panama in a seven-day span since 23 September.

Protection remains a concern, with officials reporting the discovery of 40 human remains in the dense Darien jungle on Panama's eastern border with Colombia during the week. While violence is common along the route, authorities indicate they also found the remains of nine people in the aftermath of a heavy rainfall that other migrants say swept some people in their group away.

#### FROM CENTRAL AMERICA & MEXICO

Migrant encounters at US-Mexico border so far in 2021 surpass 2019 and 2020 combined. Per the United States' Customs and Border Protection, the US has encountered more than 1.5 million migrants, mostly from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, along the US-Mexico border since the October

2021 start of the 2021 fiscal year. The total is a record high that exceeds the 1.4 million combined encounters recorded in 2019 (977,500) and 2020 (458,000). Deteriorating conditions amid chronic violence, poverty, inequality and food security and its driving effects on cross-border migration continue to pose immediate humanitarian challenges in countries of origin and transit.

#### FROM VENEZUELA

The UN in Chile is expressing concern over recent reports of violence and xenophobia against Venezuelan migrants in Chile. Following police-led evacuations of hundreds of families at a makeshift camp set up in a public square in the northern port city of Iquique, some 3,000 protestors in took to the streets, resulting in attacks on migrants and fires set to migrants' belongings. Police forces intervened to break up the attacks on the migrants, who had been staying in the settlement for months.

The UN in Chile urged an end to the violence and expressed its willingness to offer technical assistance and work with national and local authorities. Chile's Interior Ministry denounced the protests but added that authorities will continue with evictions and planned expulsions of undocumented migrants. Per the Jesuit Migrant Service Foundation in Chile, some 23,600 undocumented migrants entered Chile in the first half of 2021, nearly 7,000 more than in all of 2020.

#### Sources:

- UNHCR/IOM/UNICEF/OHCHR
- Government of Panama
- Government of the United States
- UN in Chile

### KEY FIGURES

# 2.5K

## PEOPLE AFFECTED BY WILDFIRE IN GUANAJA, HONDURAS

#### Sources:

- NOAA
- Government of Honduras
- Government of Bolivia

### LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN: NATURAL HAZARDS

#### HONDURAS: WILDFIRES

The Permanent Commission for Contingencies (COPECO) reports that a 2 October 2021 fire in the Caribbean island of Guanaja in the Islas de la Bahía department damaged or destroyed more than 220 homes, leading municipal authorities to declare a state of calamity.

The fire affected some 2,500 people, or about 62 per cent of the island's population. There are no reports of deaths. The blaze prompted COPECO, fire brigades and other response personnel to deploy to the island to extinguish the fire and carry out evacuations, first response actions and damage evaluations.

COPECO set up six shelters currently housing 62 people, while other sheltered with family or friends. COPECO, together with the Honduras Air Force and Navy and the Honduran Red Cross, are managing relief logistics for aid donations. National Humanitarian Network organizations are delivering NFIs for COPECO to distribute.

#### BOLIVIA: WILDFIRES

Authorities in the eastern department of Santa Cruz report 25 active wildfires across 10 municipalities, with nearly 400 first responders working to extinguish the fires. Six of the affected municipalities have been declared disaster areas, as have several indigenous communities reliant on the forests for livelihoods and water sources.

The fires are also affecting four ecological preserves. Departmental officials estimate that 54 per cent of Santa Cruz is currently at risk of fires due to climate patterns, drought and wind speeds.

#### 2021 ATLANTIC HURRICANE SEASON

Based on the accumulated number and intensity of storms, the 2021 Atlantic hurricane season has surpassed the United States' National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) projections for an above-average season. Hurricane Sam and Tropical Storm Victor, since dissipated, pushed the season's current Accumulated Cyclone Energy metric past the threshold of 126.1 that NOAA uses to qualify a season as above-average.

### KEY FIGURES

#### Cases, deaths & vaccines administered (3 Oct)

Cases	45,420,553	+0.7% from 26 Sep
Deaths	1,500,794	+0.8% from 26 Sep
Vaccines	619,953,573	+4.0% from 26 Sep

#### Sources:

- COVID-19 Data Explorer - <https://bit.ly/3vsHRP9>
- PAHO/WHO

### LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN: COVID-19

#### EASTERN CARIBBEAN

The Eastern Caribbean reported more than 8,000 new COVID-19 cases during the last three weeks of September, a 52 per cent increase from the 4,200 cases reported in August. PAHO/WHO notes that the increase in cases in countries such as Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Vincent and the Grenadines are mostly in unvaccinated people, with unvaccinated patients

account for 83 to 95 per cent of cases. In Barbados, the hospitalization rate has increased by 37 per cent, while the St. Lucia health system has been struggling with oxygen supply as hospitalizations increased 214 per cent. The country's main hospital reports staffing shortfalls, staff burnout, technological issues, increased patients and higher oxygen demand, with health services in Grenada, Dominica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines reporting similar issues.