



INTRODUCTION

This is the first report from the IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM), carried out in the State of Maranhão, with a specific focus on the Warao indigenous population. Its publication is part of the IOM’s process of monitoring the flow of people from Venezuela to Brazil. This activity sought to follow the migratory routes of the Warao population leaving Venezuela and often passing through Roraima, which is where the majority of previous DTM reports were undertaken in Brazil. DTM activities aim to promote safe, orderly and dignified migration based on respect for people’s rights.

This report was prepared with data collected through research in collective housing in São Luís, Imperatriz and São José de Ribamar between 1 and 9 March 2020. It presents information on the demographic profile of the population interviewed: education, work, health and social protection. This activity was financed by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM).

DTM Path	State	Number of municipalities	Date
DTM 1	Roraima	2	March 2018
DTM 2	Roraima	2	June 2018
DTM 3	Roraima	13	October 2018
DTM 4	Roraima	14	April 2019
DTM 5	Roraima	14	November 2019
DTM Indigenous	Maranhão	3	March 2020
DTM Manaus	Amazonas	1	March 2020

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METHODOLOGY

DTM monitors migratory flows, displacements and movements of people. One of its methods is the Flow Monitoring Survey (FMS)¹. This study was undertaken in partnership with the Government of the State of Maranhão and the São Luís and Imperatriz City Councils. The initiative to produce this document initially arose from an invitation to IOM from the Government of the State of Maranhão, through its Secretariat for Human Rights and Popular Participation (SEDIHPOP). This partnership aimed to strengthen the knowledge of local authorities in relation to the reality of Warao migration in the state.

29 employees in the State of Maranhão’s Secretariat for Human Rights and Popular Participation (SEDIHPOP) and the São Luís Municipal Secretariat for Children and Social Assistance (SEMCAS) were trained by the IOM to carry out the study. This training included an explanation on the use of the “Kobo” application for field data collection, storage and handling, as well as a detailed explanation about the questionnaire prepared by SEDIHPOP and reviewed by IOM.

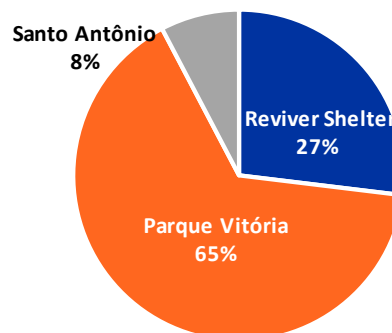
In planning the study, IOM in partnership with SEDIHPOP and SEMCAS mapped that the Warao groups were located in three locations: at the Abrigo Reviver [Reviver Shelter] (Imperatriz), supported by local authorities from the Secretariat of Social Assistance and Social Development; in Parque Vitória (in São Luís on the border with São José de Ribamar); and in the Santo Antônio neighborhood (São Luís). Each of these locations are characterized by being far from the city’s downtown area. This survey interviewed 26 heads of Warao indigenous families. 19 were from families in São Luís and São José de Ribamar and 7 from families in Imperatriz. The total number of people in all families is 112.

According to the local government, the Warao are also in eight other municipalities in the State: Santa Inês,

Paço do Lumia, Pinheiro, Barreirinhas, São Mateus, Bom Jardim, Estreitos and Açailândia.

The following chart shows the distribution of those interviewed by place of residence.

Image 1: Interviewees’ place of residence



It is worth noting that the Warao indigenous migration in Brazil has been characterized precisely by complex flows through several states and municipalities. The recently released IOM report entitled “Durable Solutions for Indigenous Migrants and Refugees in the Context of the Venezuelan Flow in Brazil” addresses this issue, highlighting the need to follow innovative research approaches that enable an understanding of their demographic dynamics, as they tend to vary rapidly over time.

Image 2: State of Maranhão



¹ The FMS (Flow Monitoring Survey) is designed to collect information on migratory flows, origins, transport and destination, as well as

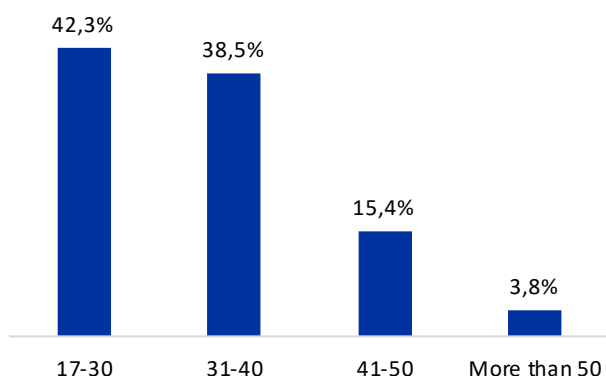
sociodemographic information, causes of migration and existing needs or challenges.

Maranhão is the 10th most populous federal state of Brazil, with approximately 6.5 million inhabitants. Located in the Northeast region of the country the state has borders with the states of Pará, Tocantins, Piauí and the Atlantic Ocean. According to the Federal Police less than 5,000 international migrants live in Maranhão by 2019. The Warao migration to the region is a recent and unexpected trend.

I. PROFILE OF PEOPLE INTERVIEWED AND FAMILY COMPOSITION

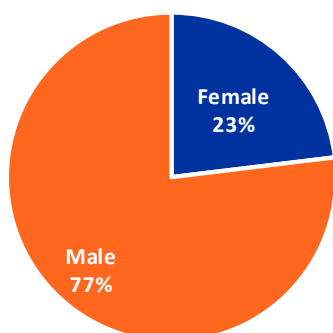
The age range of the interviewees show that the majority are young, with 80% under the age of 40, as shown in the graph below.

Image 3: Age of interviewees



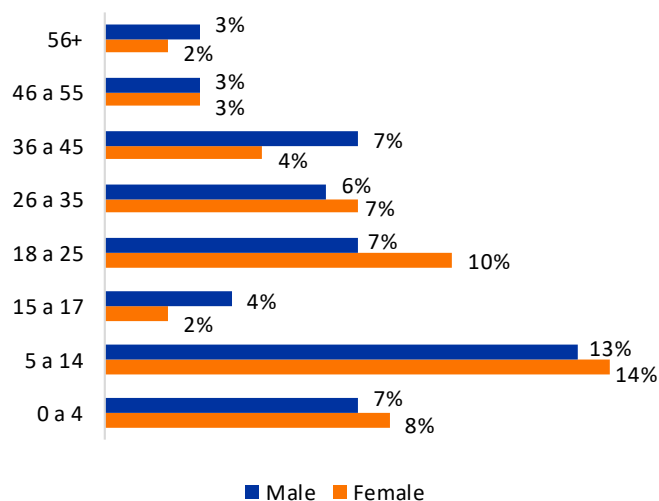
When analysing the gender of the interviewees, we identified a prevalence of males (77%), which confirms the traditional pattern of family composition with a higher percentage of males as the head of the family.

Image 4: Interviewees' gender



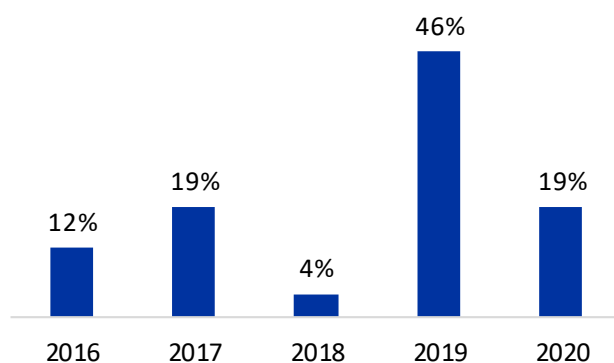
The data shows a large presence of children and adolescents in the group, representing 50%, reinforcing the population's young profile.

Image 5: Age and gender distribution of family members



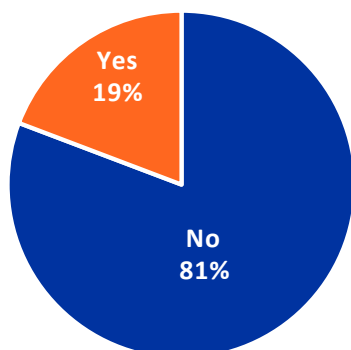
It was identified that most families are composed of the head of the family, partner and children. On average, each family has 4 members. We also observed that 31% of families have single parents. Most of the families interviewed have been residing in Brazil for one year or less – 46% came to Brazil in 2019 and 19% in 2020 – but it was observed that families have been in Brazilian territory from 2016.

Image 6: In what year did your family come to live in Brazil?



Most of these families, regardless of when they arrived, have never returned to Venezuela (81%). In addition, 70% stated that they would like to bring other family members to the country.

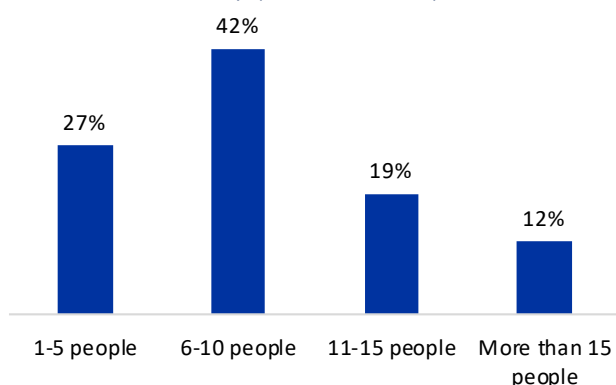
Image 7: Have you returned to Venezuela during this time?



The composition of the Warao families in Brazil, in the State of Maranhão, is different to the family composition of interviewees when they resided in Venezuela, indicating that only some of the original family members migrated to Brazil. The average number of members of the nuclear family in Venezuela, as reported by the interviewees, was 10 members; in Brazil, these family groups have on average 4 members.

All those interviewed reported that they still had relations in Venezuela, and 69% intended to bring other family members to the country.

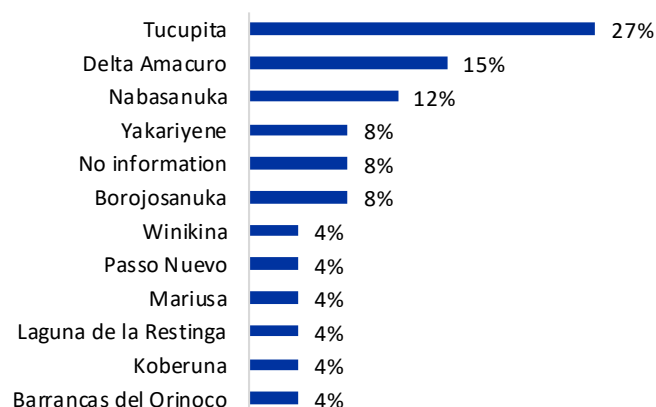
Image 8 : How many people lived in your nuclear family (in Venezuela)?



II. VENEZUELA – BRASIL ROUTE

The majority of the Warao families interviewed resided in the Venezuelan cities of Tucupita, Delta Amacuro and Nabasanuka.

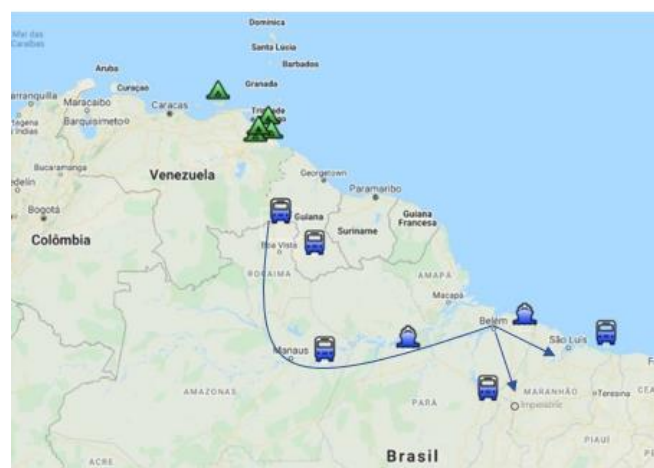
Image 9: In which community did you live in Venezuela?



All those interviewed affirmed having entered Brazil through the State of Roraima (Pacaraima, then Boa Vista), later travelling by bus to Manaus. Similarly, all declared having left Manaus via the Amazon River to Belém, passing through Santarém, and finally arriving in the State of Maranhão.

From the routes shown on the map it is possible to identify the paths used by these migrants. The means of transport commonly used by these families were buses and boats.

Map 1: Origin communities and transport points.



Although the majority of the interviewed indigenous people responded that they wished to settle with their family in the place where they currently live, based on the observation of the displacement of this population in recent years, there is a trend of spontaneous

movements, often driven by changes in the local circumstances such as situations related to income generation and expanded family relationships – though not exclusively.

Most respondents reported having resided in other Brazilian cities before settling in the current location where they were interviewed. Well-being or the reunification of family, as well as the search for employment or work commitments, are the strongest reasons for making the Warao relocate.

Of those interviewed, 77% relocated to Maranhão in search of bettering their standard of living, access to employment and family reunification.

Food is also one of the reasons indicated by the interviewees and reinforces the perception regarding the particularity of Warao culture, where there is a need for the residence to have the appropriate infrastructure for preparing food according to the Warao’s own commensal standards, for example, using collective and outdoor fires.

even to scheduling and division of tasks among the relatives involved in this process.

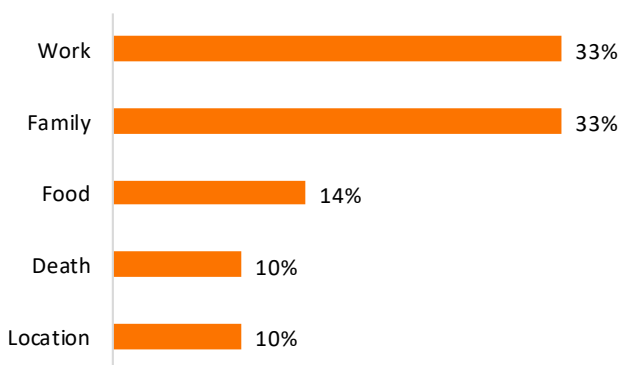
Despite indicating that the Warao have opportunities for economic integration, the responses obtained are inconclusive for obtaining a general picture of their economic activities, requiring further qualitative studies. The exercise indicates that more in-depth research is needed on the potential for Warao integration into the national job market, as they reported a history of previous employment in general services, teaching, fishing, crafts and domestic work.

It was identified that children usually accompany the family in frequent movements, also working on the collection. It was also observed that frequent displacement of Warao families is another relevant factor that increases the vulnerability of these families, as it makes it difficult for children to enrol and stay in school, which is why 80% of the children in the interviewed families are not enrolled in state or municipal schools in the State of Maranhão, which is a challenge for the local educational system.

Regarding Warao income, 69% reported having an income below the minimum wage, and only 27% receive a *Bolsa Família* [Family Benefit] from the federal government. During the data collection period, the interviewers heard reports that this income is extremely variable because normally when the Warao arrive in the city they are able to gather a large amount of resources which are reduced over time – a reason that can also contribute to frequent displacements of this group.

Finally, regarding health, respiratory diseases such as the flu were the main causes of hospitalization for the Warao. Asked about what the biggest concern is in relation to health, respondents emphasize medical assistance during pregnancy, general health problems and vaccination. It is noteworthy that two thirds of the interviewees declared having been vaccinated in Brazil.

Image 10: What was the main reason that made you leave the previous cities?



III. SOCIAL-ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

The survey gathered some impressions about the economic integration of the Warao, making it possible to understand that they arrive with expectations of joining the informal job market. One of the most frequent reports regarding work performed was asking for money or “begging”, a practice widely used by the ethnic group, which involves a whole range of logistics, from making trips, going through the internal family organization,

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International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Setor de Autarquias Sul, Quadra 05, Bloco N, Edifício OAB
Brasília, Brasil
iombrasil@iom.int
brazil.iom.int
facebook.com/OIMBrasil
twitter@OIMBrasil

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