Effects of COVID-19 on Migrants

Main Findings

Survey in Central America and Mexico
June 2020
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IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an inter-governmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

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# Table of contents

- **Introduction** ................................................................................................................................................................... 6
- **Scope and methodology** .............................................................................................................................................. 8
- **Description of informants** ......................................................................................................................................... 10
  - Sex and age .............................................................................................................................................................. 11
  - Nationality ............................................................................................................................................................... 12
  - Country of residence ............................................................................................................................................. 12
- **1. Effects of the pandemic on migration plans** ..................................................................................................... 15
  - Intention to emigrate ............................................................................................................................................. 15
  - Intention to return ................................................................................................................................................. 16
- **2. Effects of COVID-19 on the socioeconomic situation of the migrant population** ..................................... 18
  - Length of residence abroad .................................................................................................................................. 18
  - Housing ..................................................................................................................................................................... 19
  - Economic dependents and remittances ............................................................................................................. 19
  - Loss of Employment ............................................................................................................................................... 21
  - Resilience strategies ............................................................................................................................................... 21
  - Employment ............................................................................................................................................................ 22
  - Recruitment practices .......................................................................................................................................... 23
  - Occupational sectors of migrant workers .......................................................................................................... 24
  - Impact on working conditions .............................................................................................................................. 25
  - Aid provided to migrants ..................................................................................................................................... 26
- **3. Impact on the physical and mental health of migrants** .................................................................................. 27
  - Access to healthcare ............................................................................................................................................. 27
  - Chronic diseases ..................................................................................................................................................... 29
  - Mental health ........................................................................................................................................................... 30
- **4. Risk factors associated with the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic** .................................................. 32
- **Conclusions** ................................................................................................................................................................... 35
- **Appendices** .................................................................................................................................................................... 38
On January 30, 2020, the Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak known as coronavirus disease (COVID-19) a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). 1 On March 11, 2020, due to alarming levels of spread and severity, the WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic. 2

Due to the rapid spread of the disease, 92% of countries in the Americas had closed their borders by April 6, 2020 3 as part of health measures, resulting in significant changes in global mobility and affecting the services of airlines, land and sea transportation, border management, and migration policies.

In addition to their impact on countries’ economies and labor markets, these changes have affected and will continue to affect migration trends and the needs of migrants. This includes numerous cases of migrants stranded 4 due to movement restrictions as well as effects on unemployment rates and income generation in both countries of origin and residence.

In light of this complex socioeconomic and migration situation, added to the health crisis, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) conducted a survey during the month of June 2020 on the effects of the pandemic on emigrants from Central America and Mexico and immigrants from any part of the world residing in Central America and Mexico at the time of response. The survey additionally collected information on people who had the intention of migrating.

This survey has the objective of generating data in order to analyze the repercussions of COVID-19 for this population and guide the response of the many actors involved in the pandemic response, migration management, and socioeconomic recovery strategies.

This initiative was conducted as part of IOM’s Western Hemisphere Program, financed by the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration of the Department of State of the United States of America.

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EFFECTS OF COVID-19 ON MIGRANTS

MAIN FINDINGS
The survey was aimed at migrants from Central America and Mexico residing in and outside the region, as well as extraregional migrants currently residing in the region. The survey additionally collected information on nationals from Central America and Mexico who had the intention of migrating in the previous 12 months.

The methodology of the survey included the use of quantitative data and information collection methods. This is a descriptive and exploratory survey report. Due to the exploratory nature of the exercise, the snowball sampling method was selected. This is a nonprobability sampling method used with hard-to-find populations who can only be contacted using key informants who are able to identify these people.

This means that the results of the exercise are neither representative nor generalizable; however, they do provide an approximation of the repercussions of COVID-19 for migrants. It should be stated that the snowball sampling method fosters trust among the target population about answering the questionnaire, because this trusted figure can provide information to target individuals about the purposes of the questionnaire and help to dispel doubts about the use of the data (informed consent). Additionally, it is important to point out that this survey is relevant in that it serves as a point of departure for reflection on the structural challenges for providing responses that include migrants and address their needs.

In terms of limitations, it should also be stated that the survey did not collect specific information on migrants who have returned to the region, but focused on exploring the intention to return of migrants from the countries where they were residing. The survey also has limitations with regard to representativity, due to the limited number of responses collected from Central American and Mexican migrants in the United States of America (2%) when migration statistics show that this country is the principal destination for migrants from this region.

The information was collected through an online questionnaire (see appendix) available in Spanish, English, and French. It was activated on May 28, 2020 and remains open. For the purposes of this report, responses provided during the month of June by nationals (emigrants and those with the intention of emigrating) of Central American countries and Mexico and by immigrants in these countries were used.

This questionnaire was designed under the data protection principles of IOM, which include informed consent for collection and use of information,
ensuring the confidentiality and protection of the data of minors, from whom the form did not collect any kind of information.

The considerations taken into account for the choice and combination of methods and means of collecting information included: i) The urgent need for information on the target population and ii) The limited options for conducting fieldwork in the different countries, given movement and distancing restrictions.

The means of disseminating the questionnaire included:

**Dissemination through key informants:**
An extensive network of government and non-governmental organizations which work with migrants.

**Dissemination through social networks (Facebook, Instagram):**
Social networks were used as digital marketing tools which enabled the creation of ads directed to a specific population segmented by expert criteria and variables which social media users had voluntarily entered into the apps (as a result, the data are self-reported and not verifiable). For this reason, it should be noted that the population sample was necessarily biased by multiple factors, most notably age range, smartphone usage, and internet access.
According to IOM, a migrant is a person who moves away from his or her place of usual residence, whether within a country or across an international border, temporarily or permanently, and for a variety of reasons. The survey includes people who have crossed an international border, as well as those who declared having had the intention of doing so within the previous 12 months.

As of June 30, 2020, 1,660 valid responses had been obtained for the region of study (Central America and Mexico) that is, from:

- Extraregional immigrants in Central America and Mexico
- Emigrants from Central America and Mexico
- Nationals of Central America and Mexico with the intention of migrating

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5 IOM, Glossary on Migration, 2019.
Of this sample, 60% were people considered international migrants and 40% were people who had not emigrated at the time of response but who had this intention within the previous twelve months. In the following sections, more details are provided regarding this second group’s intention to migrate of, and how the pandemic may have affected these plans.

Sex and age

Of the people who responded to the survey, 45% are men, 54% are women, and the remaining 1% include transgender and non-binary individuals. By age, the people who responded to the survey are primarily between the ages of 26 and 45 (61%). The results of the survey thus demonstrate the prevalence of the young, productive, reproductive population both among people who have emigrated and those who have the intention of doing so.
**Nationality**

The following chart shows the principal countries of origin of the people surveyed; among which Honduras (28%), El Salvador (23%), Nicaragua (15%), and Guatemala (11%) are most common. Nationals of the following countries are also represented: Cuba, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Colombia, Mexico, Costa Rica, Haiti, Belize, and others.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Country of residence</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicaragua</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belize</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Country of residence**

The results of the survey regarding country of residence coincide with migration trends in the region (intraregional migration) in that the most common countries of residence are Costa Rica and Mexico. Costa Rica, followed by El Salvador and Panama, is the principal country of residence for Nicaraguan migrants. Mexico is a major country of residence for Honduran and Salvadoran migrants. Belize is a country of residence for Guatemalan and Salvadoran migrants. Outside the region, the United States of America and Spain are the two principal countries of destination of Central American and Mexican migrants. However, the very limited number of responses received from people living in the United States of America affects the results presented here and obscures migration from this region to North America.
Map 1: Principal countries of residence by numbers of migrants from Central America and Mexico

This map is for illustrative purposes only. The boundaries and names in this map, as well as the descriptions used, do not imply approval or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

Source: Prepared by the authors, ESRI, and UN World.
The results of the survey indicate that Mexico, Panama, and Costa Rica are the principal countries where extraregional immigrants are found, with a higher prevalence of Haitian migrants in Mexico, Colombians in Panama, and Venezuelans in all three countries.
1. EFFECTS OF THE PANDEMIC ON MIGRATION PLANS

Intention to emigrate

The pandemic affected the migration plans of 57% of people with the intention of migrating.

Among the people with the intention of migrating, the highest percentage of people postponed travel due to the pandemic (47%). Additionally, 10% of people changed their minds due to the pandemic declaration and no longer wished to migrate, and 43% did not emigrate for reasons other than the pandemic.
84% of people who planned to migrate in the previous 12 months would consider resuming the journey when movement restrictions normalize versus 16% who would not resume the journey even when restrictions normalize.

Certainly, restrictions on movement due to COVID-19 have directly affected people’s migration plans, through border closures as well as quarantine, isolation, and social distancing measures imposed in the different countries of the region. However, it appears that these restrictions have only delayed potential migrations.

In destination countries, the socioeconomic effects of the pandemic are also impacting the plans of migrants, who are considering returning to their countries of origin in response to the socioeconomic difficulties they are facing. Thus, 21% of migrants stated they wish to return to their countries of origin due to the context of the pandemic, versus 79% who do not wish to return. Of the people who wish to return, 54% are women and 46% are men. Of those migrants who wish to return to their countries of origin, the majority (84%) have a place to live in their countries.

The most common reasons that motivate the desire to return to the country of origin include: A lack of income and the high cost of living in the country of residence (50%), having changed their migration plan in general (32%), and unemployment (32%).

2 out of every 10 migrants consider returning to their countries of origin

In destination countries, the socioeconomic effects of the pandemic are also impacting the plans of migrants, who are considering returning to their countries of origin in response to the socioeconomic difficulties they are facing. Thus, 21% of migrants stated they wish to return to their countries of origin due to the context of the pandemic, versus 79% who do not wish to return. Of the people who wish to return, 54% are women and 46% are men. Of those migrants who wish to return to their countries of origin, the majority (84%) have a place to live in their countries.

The most common reasons that motivate the desire to return to the country of origin include: A lack of income and the high cost of living in the country of residence (50%), having changed their migration plan in general (32%), and unemployment (32%).
Furthermore, of the migrants who wish to return, 56% would do so when they collect enough money to make the trip, 34% when the movement restrictions relax, and 10% state that their return is already conditional on notification from their embassy.

It is important to consider that the large number of migrant workers returning to their countries of origin probably exceeds the capacity of the formal and informal sectors in those countries to absorb them into the local labor market, due to the economic effects of the pandemic in those countries.

On the other hand, 79% of migrants do not wish to return to their countries of origin, and the most common reasons include: Insecurity in the country of origin (47%), settlement and ties in the country where they resided at the time of the survey (24%), the legal security regular migration status gives them (16%), migration restrictions (10%), lack of knowledge of the official procedures for return (2%), and job opportunities (1%).
The majority of migrants who responded to the survey have been residing abroad for more than five years (35%); that is, their migration was not a recent event. The next most common are those who arrived in the country of destination between two and five years ago, and between one and two years ago. This is a clear indicator that these are mainly people who are established in these countries with a certain degree of stability, which impacts their quality of life in the destination country and the intentions to return presented in the report.
Housing

9 out of 10 migrants do not own their housing

Although we saw that migrants have been residing abroad for several years, 89% do not own their dwelling, whereas only 11% do. There were no significant differences by sex. This data is an indicator of the potential serious difficulties migrants may experience supporting themselves in the country of destination, if their income is impacted by the pandemic.

Of the people who do not own their dwelling, 80% rent and 20% live in a borrowed space, whether indefinitely or temporarily. It is important to point out that those who live in a borrowed space will eventually face the risk of being left without a place to live.

The majority of those who do not own their residence live in houses/apartments (73%) or in boarding houses or bunkhouses (22%). Due to the limitations of their living space, migrants in this last group would face many challenges for complying with health measures in the event that they required isolation due to COVID-19.

Economic dependents and remittances

Two-thirds of migrants have economic dependents

The majority of migrants (67%) have economic dependents. In general, these dependents live in the same country as the migrant responsible for supporting them (70%), while the remaining 30% live in other countries.
Of all migrants who have economic dependents in other countries, 59% continue sending remittances. However, the majority (82%) have reduced the amount they send because they do not have sufficient income. A lesser number have maintained the same amount (12%) and very few have increased the amount they send (6%).

8 out of 10 migrants who send remittances have reduced the amount, most often because they do not have sufficient income

On the other hand, 41% of people have stopped sending remittances. This is due to various causes, most of which are tied to the pandemic: People do not have the economic resources to send, the restrictions and health measures within the countries do not allow them to go out and perform everyday errands, and remittance agencies and banks have been closed.

7 out of every 10 people who have stopped sending remittances have done so due to the pandemic

Percentage of migrants disaggregated by those who send and have stopped sending regular remittances (%)

- Continue sending remittances: 59%
- Have stopped sending remittances: 41%

Principal reasons for having stopped sending remittances (%)

- Due to the pandemic: 71%
- Other reasons: 29%
Loss of Employment

Half of migrants lost their employment due to the pandemic

The International Labour Organization emphasizes that workplace closures, the application of new isolation measures, and the rapid deterioration of the economic situation have resulted in serious losses in working hours over a short period of time. Additionally, the highest level of restrictions affecting workers is being imposed in the Americas, where migrant workers are particularly affected. Of all migrants who responded to the survey, 51% lost their employment due to the pandemic. We look later at the portion of these people who started a business in order to overcome this situation.

The results of the survey additionally confirm that migrants were facing precarious situations before the pandemic. For example, the results show that 69% of migrants are not gainfully employed, whether due to unemployment or other causes. This problem is even more marked for migrant women, above all because they perform unremunerated caregiving work such as domestic labor and caring for older adults.

Resilience strategies

22% of migrants started small businesses after losing employment due to the pandemic

As a socioeconomic resilience strategy, 22% of migrants turned to entrepreneurship after being left unemployed due to the pandemic. Most of these business initiatives are in retail, however, the majority of these are of an informal nature (76%).

There are significant differences between the types of entrepreneurship undertaken by migrant men and women, as well as in the degree of formalization. Women primarily concentrate their business initiatives in the food service and retail sectors. Men, meanwhile, work in the retail, construction, mechanics, electronics, tailoring, telecommunications, and transportation sectors.

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Business initiatives in the food sector (where women are in the majority), particularly when referring to initiatives in the context of the pandemic, mainly take the form of subsistence activities, which would indicate low levels of formalization as they are smaller businesses. Therefore, if women are overrepresented in sectors such as domestic labor or the informal selling of food, they also have low levels of formalization.

Employment

Of the people who responded to the survey, 20% are currently working. These people fall into different occupational categories and most are salaried or employed (71%). The following graph displays the data disaggregated by sex.
The results of the survey indicate that a minority use private or government agencies in the country of origin to obtain employment (3% and 4%, respectively). The other methods people use to find employment are personal searches directly with companies or through friends or acquaintances. These forms of seeking employment may potentially place migrant workers in situations of risk, given that the majority of them are associated with informal mechanisms in which international standards for ethical recruitment and the corresponding protections of human and labor rights are not applied.
Regarding the occupational sectors in which migrants work, the most common are paid domestic work (17%) followed by the support services sector (13%), and education and social and health services (12% each).

Occupational sectors display important variance by sex, which confirms that labor insertion is marked by a gender division in the work force. The following graph shows the difference between women and men as it regards to occupational sector.
The results of the survey indicate that even those who did not lose their employment had their working conditions impacted; 44% stated that their workday and working hours were reduced, 20% switched to telework, 10% had increased working hours, and 26% were unaffected.

The following chart shows that 47% did not have their pay affected by COVID-19. However, 48% did have a reduction in salary or income and 5% stated they had not received their salary since the pandemic began.

Impact on working conditions

4 out of 10 migrant workers saw reductions in their workday and/or salary

The chart shows:

- 44% of workers had their workday reduced
- 20% switched to telework
- 10% had increased working hours
- 26% were unaffected

Impact on income due to COVID-19 (%):

- 47% did not have their pay affected
- 41% had a reduction in salary
- 7% had not been paid
- 5% had a reduction in income (self-employed workers)
In order to cope with the repercussions of COVID-19, migrants have received aid, albeit to a limited degree, from various institutions, organizations, and groups. 21% of migrants have received aid from an institution and 9% have received aid from the migrant community in the country where they live. The types of aid are diverse, but the most common forms from both sources are cash money, food products, and personal hygiene products.

Up until now, this report has described the socioeconomic conditions of migrants covered by the survey and how they have been impacted by the effects of COVID-19. In the following section, the report focuses on describing some variables and data related to physical and mental health.
3. IMPACT ON THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH OF MIGRANTS

Access to healthcare

99% of migrants stated that they comply with the preventative health measures for COVID-19

A global health situation such as the current situation with COVID-19 requires the careful exercise of measures to help contain the massive spread. These measures have largely included frequent handwashing with soap and water, the use of facemasks in enclosed spaces, maintaining social distancing, and leaving home as little as possible.

In order to be effective, these measures must embrace the entire population, including migrants. For this reason, it is noteworthy that 99% of the migrants surveyed stated that they are following the recommendations and prevention measures promoted in the country where they live to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.
7% of migrants had indicated suspicions of contracting COVID-19. Of these, 60% were between the ages of 26 and 45, while no migrants older than 66 suspected they had contracted the disease.

Of the migrants who stated suspicions of having contracted COVID-19, only 33% had sought health services in the country where they currently reside. The questionnaire did not investigate the causes of this; however, even in the pre-pandemic context and particularly during the pandemic, there are significant factors (language, migration status, xenophobia, etc.) which limit the exercise of migrants’ right to healthcare.

9% of the migrants who participated in this survey had had a COVID-19 test in the previous three months. This group reported a 9% positivity rate, and of these positive individuals, all affirmed they had complied with isolation and quarantine measures.

The positive cases were concentrated in individuals between the ages of 36 and 55, with at least one case in almost all age groups, except those between 18 and 25 and those older than 66.
The impact of COVID-19 on health is aggravated when risk factors, such as some chronic diseases, are present. When the survey asked about this, 22% of migrants stated they suffer from a chronic disease. This situation affects primarily women (26%) compared with the prevalence of chronic disease among men (18%). The individuals primarily indicated the presence of hypertension, diabetes, asthma, and obesity, as can be observed in greater detail in the following graph.
The pandemic itself and the situations it causes in daily, personal, and work life also have significant impacts on mental health. On one hand, there is the general fear of infection and its consequences, and on the other hand, radical changes have occurred in routines and normalcy in all aspects of peoples’ lives. Physical distancing, work from home or loss of employment, isolation, and uncertainty all have a direct effect on mental health.

This is also reflected in the migrant population, where 59% reported impacts on their mental health.

Of these impacts, the most frequently reported were stress, sadness, and anxiety.
4. RISK FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC

Situations of unemployment and the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic increase the risk of migrants being deceived or cheated while seeking work. This risk increases even more when individuals have no other source of income when they lose employment. Correspondingly, 92% of migrants currently without a source of income stated they are concerned about being deceived or exploited when looking for job opportunities that will enable them to support themselves, whether during or after the crisis. This affects both men (93%) and women (92%).

9 out of 10 migrants are concerned about being deceived or exploited when seeking job opportunities

Percentage of migrants who indicated concern about being deceived about potential job opportunities (%)
Despite these concerns, 92% of migrants without a source of income would accept a job or opportunity that would help them generate income, even if it came from an unknown company or person (88% in the case of women and 96% in the case of men). If they were to receive offers in another country, they would also take the risk of accepting them, even without understanding all the conditions: 61% would accept these types of offers while 39% would not.

Migrants who would accept a job offer abroad without knowing or understanding all its terms and conditions (%)
Additionally, of the people who intend to emigrate and seek employment, 78% would be willing to travel to another country if offered a job opportunity, even if they did not fully understand the conditions of the offer (72% of women and 82% of men).

This finding is closely related with the low percentage of people who stated they use private and public agencies to find employment from the country of origin, as described above in the section on means of seeking employment.

It is evident that both migrants and those who have not yet emigrated are at serious risk of accepting offers of employment without full information on the position due to the need to find a source of income, exposing these individuals to greater risks of suffering exploitation and abuse.

The latent risks of potential deception, especially for people in particularly vulnerable situations, may be aggravated due to the problems caused by COVID-19. These types of deceptions or fraudulent recruiting practices may potentially be connected to migrant smuggling and/or lead to trafficking in persons.
CONCLUSIONS

The results obtained from this survey, despite its limitations regarding the scope and representativity of the sample, provide information about some general characteristics of the migrant population which may be of interest when designing and implementing comprehensive responses to the health, socioeconomic, and migration situation at present and in the upcoming months.

- 84% of people who had planned to migrate in the previous 12 months would consider resuming the trip when movement restrictions normalize, which appears to indicate that the pandemic has only postponed their migration plans.

- Migrants have suffered negative impacts on their income levels as well as significant unemployment or reduction of working hours. This has affected the ability of migrant workers to continue sending remittances to their countries of origin, and in some cases to support themselves in countries of residence.

- As a result, one out of five migrants expressed the intention of returning to their countries of origin, primarily motivated by the socioeconomic
impact of the pandemic. In addition to movement restrictions due to COVID-19, migrants’ ability to return depends on having the sufficient resources to undertake the trip or waiting for notification from the respective consular authorities in order to return. Thus, it is possible that reopening borders without economic improvement in destination countries will result in an increase in returns to countries of origin, which will cause challenges for socioeconomic reintegration.

• Certain sectors or occupations have been more affected by unemployment and reduction in workload; domestic labor, construction, hospitality, and restaurants are the primary affected economic sectors in which migrants work.

• The results of the survey demonstrate the resilience of migrants to the impacts of COVID-19; although remittances have been reduced, they continue to be a strategy for supporting dependents, while migrants have undertaken business initiatives as strategies to generate income. International flows of financial resources, in the form of remittances and investment, will be critical for economic recovery in upcoming months. It is essential for governments and financial institutions to adopt measures to minimize costs and other barriers to sending remittances.

• The survey shows high levels of concern about the risks of being deceived in the job search process. However, the vast majority of migrants and those with the intention of migrating would accept untrustworthy or unclear job offers, unavoidably making them vulnerable to exploitation, fraud, scams, and migrant smuggling and human trafficking networks.

• The prevalence of chronic diseases among the migrants surveyed is 2 out of 10, with a marked prevalence of these diseases among women.

• A high percentage of migrants have experienced an increase in affectations such as stress, sadness and anxiety. Knowing the mental health condition of migrants allows defining strategies and actions to provide psychosocial care tools to institutions and organizations that offer care services.

• A high percentage of migrants stated they comply with the recommended health measures. In such a way that the assumption, in certain communities and contexts, regarding that they constitute a vector of infection, does not have evidence. Conversely, this finding shows that migrants contribute to the health response to the epidemic.
Finally, the relatively high number of responses to this IOM initiative demonstrates in some way the importance and necessity of communicating with migrants in times of crisis and their desire to communicate their needs and experiences, to be heard, and to be part of response frameworks both in countries of origin and destination. Thus, the methodological approach of this survey provides input in the form of an estimate of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the migrant population.
### Information for the Interviewee

**Informed consent:**

The International Organization for Migration is conducting a survey to understand the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on migrant populations. The survey is anonymous. IOM will not collect personal information, such as names, ID numbers, or any personal data that may put at risk the integrity of those who agree to participate on this survey.

IOM will use aggregated data to draft a regional study the impact of the pandemic on migrant populations and to disseminate the findings through different media channels. Do you agree to participate in the survey?

- □ Yes
- □ No (End of the questionnaire)

### Information for the Interviewee

1. **Select your gender**
   - □ Male
   - □ Female
   - □ Other

2. **Select your age range**
   - □ 13-18 years (End of the questionnaire)
   - □ 18-25 years
   - □ 26-35 years
   - □ 36-45 years
   - □ 46-55 years
   - □ 56-65 years
   - □ More than 66 years

3. **Please indicate your nationality**
   (List of main nationalities)

4. **¿Are you an international migrant?**

   International migrant, refers to any person that has changed residence by crossing an international border, in a temporary or permanent basis and by a wide variety of reasons.

   - □ Yes. Move on to question 5
   - □ No.

4.1 **In the last year, have you thought about migrating to another country?**

   - □ Yes.
   - □ No. (End of the questionnaire)
### 4.2 Why haven’t you migrated yet?
- ☐ My trip was postponed due to mobility restrictions derived from the pandemic.
- ☐ I changed my mind when the pandemic was declared and I don’t want to migrate anymore.
- ☐ I changed my mind for another reason, not related to the pandemic.
- ☐ Other. Please specify: ___________________________

### 4.3 Do you believe that when the mobility restrictions are removed you’ll be able to continue with your plan to migrate?
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

### 4.4 In the case that you are looking for a job. If you get an offer in another country, but you don’t fully understand the conditions of the offer, would you still consider accepting it?
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

**END OF QUESTIONNAIRE.**

### 5. Indicate your country of residence:
- ☐ United States
- ☐ Canada
- ☐ Mexico
- ☐ Belize
- ☐ Honduras
- ☐ Guatemala
- ☐ El Salvador
- ☐ Nicaragua
- ☐ Costa Rica
- ☐ Panama
- ☐ Other (please specify): ___________________________

### 6. ¿For how long have you been living in this country?
- ☐ Less than three months
- ☐ Between three months and six months
- ☐ Between six months and one year
- ☐ Between one year and two years
- ☐ Between two years and five years
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<td><strong>APPENDICES</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 7. Do you own place where you currently live?
- Yes. Move on to question 8.
- No

### 7.1 Do you rent place where you currently live?
- Yes, I'm renting
- No, I'm temporarily staying in a borrowed house
- No, I'm staying in a borrowed house indefinitely

### 7.2 Please indicate what type of house you live in:
- Low-income housing
- Apartment
- House
- Hostel
- Shelter
- Rancho
- Other, please specify: ____________

### Socioeconomic information

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8. Do you have any dependents?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dependent refers to those persons that depend on you for economic support, for example: family members or partner/spouse.</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No. Move on to question 9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 8.1 If yes, where do they live?
- In the same country I currently live. Move on to question 9
- In another country, please specify the country: ____________.

### 8.1.1 Have you been regularly sending remittances to your country?
- Yes. Move on to question 8.1.1.a.1
- No. Move on to question 8.1.1.b.1

### 8.1.1.a.1 Did you have to change the amount of money you usually send to your family/friends due to the pandemic?
- Yes, I reduced the amount of money I send because my income was reduced.
### EFFECTS OF COVID-19 ON MIGRANTS

#### MAIN FINDINGS

8.1.1.b.1 Did you stop sending remittances to your family/friends due to the pandemic?
- [ ] Yes.
- [ ] No, it’s because of another reason. Please specify: __________ Move on to question 9

8.1.1.b.2 Why did you stop sending remittances in the times of the pandemic?
- [ ] The transfer costs increased.
- [ ] I don’t have enough money to send.
- [ ] Remittance agencies/banks are closed.
- [ ] I cannot go out due to mobility restrictions.
- [ ] Other. Please specify: _______________

#### Mobility, work issued and vulnerability risks

9. Are you currently working?
- [ ] Yes, I have a job. Move on to question 10.1.a
- [ ] No, I’m unemployed. Move on to question 10.2.a
- [ ] I lost my job as a result of the pandemic, but I started a new job on my own (entrepreneurship).

9.a Please indicate what type or work you are currently performing:
Open question: _______________

9.b Have you started a formalization process for your business in the country where you live?
- [ ] Yes
- [ ] I don’t know what formalization is.
- [ ] No. Move on to question 9.b.1

9.b.1 Can you indicate why?
- [ ] I don’t think formalization is necessary.
- [ ] I don’t know if formalization is necessary.
- [ ] I don’t know how the process for formalization is.

10.1.a What’s your job status?
- [ ] Paid employee
- [ ] Casual work
- [ ] Employer. Move on to question 10.1.c
- [ ] Entrepreneur (a). Move on to question 10.1.c
- [ ] Paid domestic worker
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 10.1.a. How were you hired for this job?                                | ○ Through a family member/friend/acquaintance  
○ Through a recruitment agency in my home country  
○ By myself, looking at enterprises/businesses directly  
○ Through a government program  
○ Through other means. Please specify: __________________________ |
| 10.1. What field do you work on?                                        | ○ Agriculture  
○ Manufacture  
○ Construction  
○ Mechanic  
○ Driver  
○ Hospitality and food services  
○ Support services: communication, finance, real estate or administration.  
○ Education (teachers)  
○ Healthcare and social services  
○ Styling and beauty  
○ Sports and arts  
○ Paid domestic worker  
○ Others, please specify: __________________________ |
| 10.1.c Was your workday affected by the pandemic?                       | ○ Yes, I am now working part time or fewer hours than before.  
○ Yes, I am working longer hours than before.  
○ Yes, I am telecommuting.  
○ No, my workday remains the same. |
| 10.1.d Have you perceived an impact on the salary/remuneration you receive for your work? | None of the above. Please, specify: ___________________
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes, they reduced my wages.</td>
<td>Yes, I have not been paid since the pandemic started.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes, it is not allowed to go outside, and I am a freelance worker.</td>
<td>No, I continue to receive the same financial remuneration.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10.2.a Why are you unemployed?</th>
<th>The workplace closed or reduced its operations due to pandemic restrictions. Move on to question 10.2.a.1</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I am looking for a job for the first time. Move on to question 10.2.a.2</td>
<td>I don't want to work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I am an older adult and have limitations to work</td>
<td>I am a student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have health problems (physical and mental illnesses) that prevent me from working</td>
<td>I take care of children or older adults</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other, please specify: _________</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10.2.a.1 What is your occupation?</th>
<th>Agriculture or farming activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>Construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mechanic</td>
<td>Driver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospitality and food services</td>
<td>Support services: communications, finance, real estate or administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Question</td>
<td>Option 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.2.a.2 Would you accept a job or income earning opportunity if it comes from a company or person you don't know?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.2.a.3 Are you worried about being deceived and exploited when looking for opportunities to overcome this crisis?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.2.a.4 In the case that you are looking for a job. If you get an offer in another country, but you don’t fully understand the conditions of the offer, would you still consider accepting it?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.2.a.5 Are you currently receiving any type of income?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Have you received money from a family member or friend, from your country of origin?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Health**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Option 1</th>
<th>Option 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12. Do you follow the recommendations and preventive measures promoted in the country where you live to mitigate the spread of COVID-19?</td>
<td>Yes.</td>
<td>No. Move on to question 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.1 What measures are you applying?</td>
<td>Frequent hand washing</td>
<td>Using of alcohol gel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Avoid touching your face</td>
<td>Cleaning surfaces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Avoiding crowds</td>
<td>Using of mask</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Using of protective masks</td>
<td>Others, please specify:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Main Findings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In the last months have you had suspicions of contracting COVID-19?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did you requested health assistance or attend a healthcare center in the country where you live?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the last 3 months, have you taken a test to detect COVID-19?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Was your diagnosis positive for COVID-19?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you maintain isolation and quarantine measures?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicate why not?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have cases of COVID-19 been detected in your workplace?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you suffer from any chronic disease?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Please indicate which of the following diseases you suffer from:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Options

- Yes
- No

**Multiple Choice**

- Diabetes
| 16. Do you consider that since the pandemic your mental health has been negatively affected? | ☐ Yes.  
☐ No. |
| 17. Please indicate if you have experienced any of the following emotions due to the pandemic: | MULTIPLE CHOICE  
☐ Anxiety  
☐ Stress  
☐ Fear  
☐ Anguish  
☐ Withdrawal or withdrawal from social interaction  
☐ Frustration  
☐ Anger  
☐ Sadness  
☐ Indecision  
☐ Other, please specify: ___________________ |
| 18. Are you planning to return to your country of origin due to the pandemic? | ☐ Yes. Move on to question 18.1.a  
☐ No. Move on to question 18.2 |
### 18.1.a When do you plan to return?
- □ When mobility restrictions are removed.
- □ I don't have enough money, so it will be when I collect the money I need.
- □ I am awaiting notification from the embassy.
- □ Others, please specify:

### 18.1.b Why do you want to return?
- □ I was unemployed, and I can't find a job because of the pandemic.
- □ I have no income and it is impossible to stay in this country that way.
- □ I changed my mind about my migration project and decided to return to my country of origin.
- □ Others, please specify:

### 18.1.c Have you consulted with your relatives the decision to return?
- □ Yes
- □ No

### 18.1.d Do you have a place to live in case you return to your country of origin?
- □ Yes. Move on to question 18.1.d.1
- □ No

#### 18.1.d.1 Has anyone in your family been diagnosed with COVID-19?
- □ Yes
- □ No

### 18.2. If not, could you indicate why?
- □ I do not know the official processes to do it.
- □ I am not interested; I have roots in this country.
- □ There are security issues in my home country.
- □ I have been successful in regularizing my migration status in this country.
- □ Due to the pandemic, mobility restrictions were applied for migrants who are regular in this country. Move on to question 18.2.a
- □ Other. please specify: __________________

### 18.2.a Would you return (within three months) after immigration restrictions are removed?
- □ Yes.
- □ No.
### Support to contain the pandemic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19. Have you obtained any type of assistance from an institution?</td>
<td>☐ Yes. Please indicate which institution: ____________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ No. Move on to question 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.1 Select the assistance they have given you:</td>
<td>MULTIPLE RESPONSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ Money</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ Hygiene products (soap, women’s sanitary napkins, toilet paper, alcohol gel, paper towels, disposable diapers, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ Food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ Cleaning products (disinfectant, chlorine, alcohol, plastic bags, laundry soap, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ Clothes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ Other, please specify: ____________________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. Have you received any kind of assistance from the migrant community in the country where you live?</td>
<td>☐ Yes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ No. (End of the questionnaire)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.1 Select the assistance they have given you:</td>
<td>MULTIPLE RESPONSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ Money</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ Hygiene products (soap, women’s sanitary napkins, toilet paper, alcohol gel, paper towels, disposable diapers, etc.)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ Clothes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ Other, please specify: ____________________________</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

End of the questionnaire: Thank you for your support!
### Information for the Interviewee

**Informed consent:**

The International Organization for Migration is conducting a survey to understand the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on migrant populations. The survey is anonymous. IOM will not collect personal information, such as names, ID numbers, or any personal data that may put at risk the integrity of those who agree to participate on this survey.

IOM will use aggregated data to draft a regional study the impact of the pandemic on migrant populations and to disseminate the findings through different media channels. Do you agree to participate in the survey?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No (End of the questionnaire)

### Information for the Interviewee

1. **Select your gender**
   - [ ] Male
   - [ ] Female
   - [ ] Other

2. **Select your age range**
   - [ ] 13-18 years (End of the questionnaire)
   - [ ] 18-25 years
   - [ ] 26-35 years
   - [ ] 36-45 years
   - [ ] 46-55 years
   - [ ] 56-65 years
   - [ ] More than 66 years

3. **Please indicate your nationality**
   (List of main nationalities)

4. **Are you an international migrant?**
   International migrant, refers to any person that has changed residence by crossing an international border, in a temporary or permanent basis and by a wide variety of reasons.
   - [ ] Yes. Move on to question 5
   - [ ] No.

4.1 **In the last year, have you thought about migrating to another country?**
   - [ ] Yes.
   - [ ] No. (End of the questionnaire)
International Organization for Migration
Regional Office for Central America, North America, and the Caribbean

Sabana Business Center,
Boulevard Ernesto Rohrmoser,
San José, Costa Rica