

PROTECTION MONITORING: MEXICO

SNAPSHOT APRIL 2022

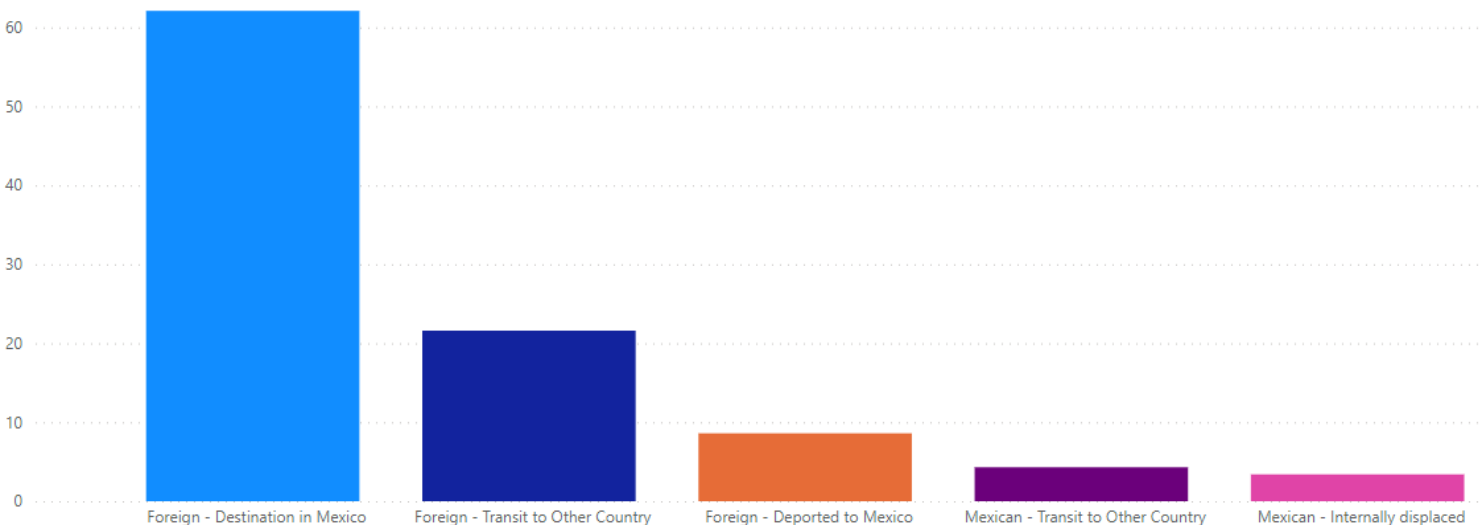
This SNAPSHOT summarizes the findings of Protection Monitoring conducted in Ciudad Juarez and Tapachula, Mexico in April 2022 as part of the humanitarian intervention of the **Danish Refugee Council (DRC)** and the **Jesuit Refugee Service Mexico (JRS)**, as part of a consortium with Save the Children Spain and Mexico, Plan International Spain and Mexico and HIAS Mexico, with the financial support of the European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO). To view the interactive Dashboard with the results from this period and from the beginning of the Protection Monitoring program, click [here](#).

The situation in **Ciudad Juarez** during April was marked by an [announcement by the U.S. government](#) at the beginning of month of the decision by the health authority of the country to suspend the implementation of Title 42. Although the resumption of the asylum procedure at the border would not take effect until the end of May, the announcement provoked predictions of a [significant increase](#) in the number of persons of concern in the area and along the northern border. In this context, the governor of Chihuahua entered into [an agreement](#) with her counterpart in the state of Texas to stop the irregular flows of migrants from Chihuahua to Texas, among other aspects. At the same time, the suspension of Title 42 faced challenges on the other side of the border, both in the [U.S. congress](#) and in the courts, where 21 states presented litigation questioning the decision. In the last week of the month, a federal judge ordered that the government [abstain from preparing](#) to remove Title 42 restrictions prior to the suspension scheduled for May 23, creating uncertainty as to the revocation of these measures.

Following weeks of indefinite closure, the **Tapachula** office of the National Migration Institute (INM) reopened, accompanied by the launch of [100 immigration processing windows](#) in the state of Chiapas, paving the way for an increase in the issuance of humanitarian visas (*Tarjetas de Visitante por Razones Humanitarias* or TVRH). People with the TVRH were identified with greater frequency. Nonetheless, this produced a backlog in the tax authority (*Servicio de Administración Tributaria* or SAT), where individuals with regular status in the country – as well as Mexican nationals – can process a federal taxpayer registration number (*Registro Federal de Contribuyente* or RFC), a requisite to be able to access many formal employment opportunities. In this context, there was greater mobility among the population of concern, provoking a reduction in the duration of their stays in Tapachula. A [collective movement](#) of more than 700 people who sought to depart Tapachula in the first days of the month was dissolved by INM agents. Civil society organizations condemned the [excessive use of force](#) in the process and that some of these individuals were subsequently transferred through *ad hoc* measures to other locations within the country.

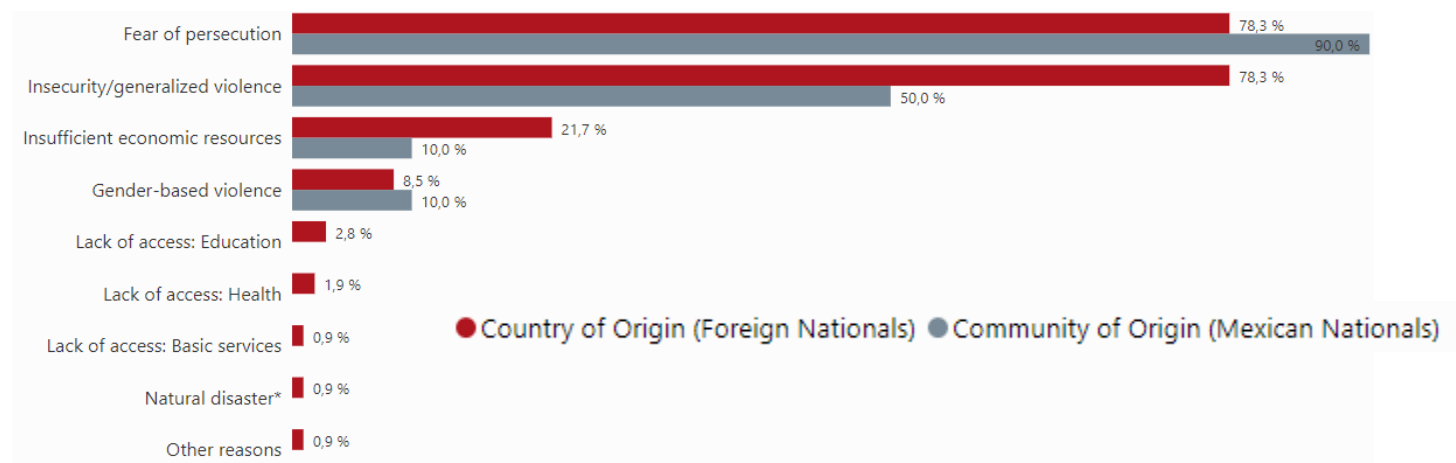
KEY FIGURES*

PROFILE



*During March, 116 interviews were conducted, covering a total of 265 people.

FLIGHT MOTIVES

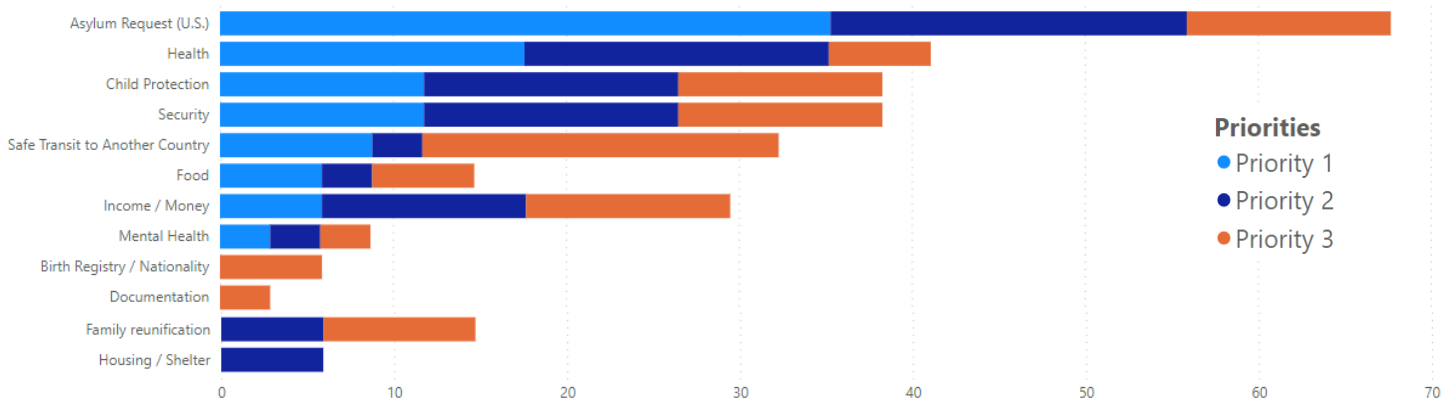


SPECIFIC NEEDS & PRIORITIES:

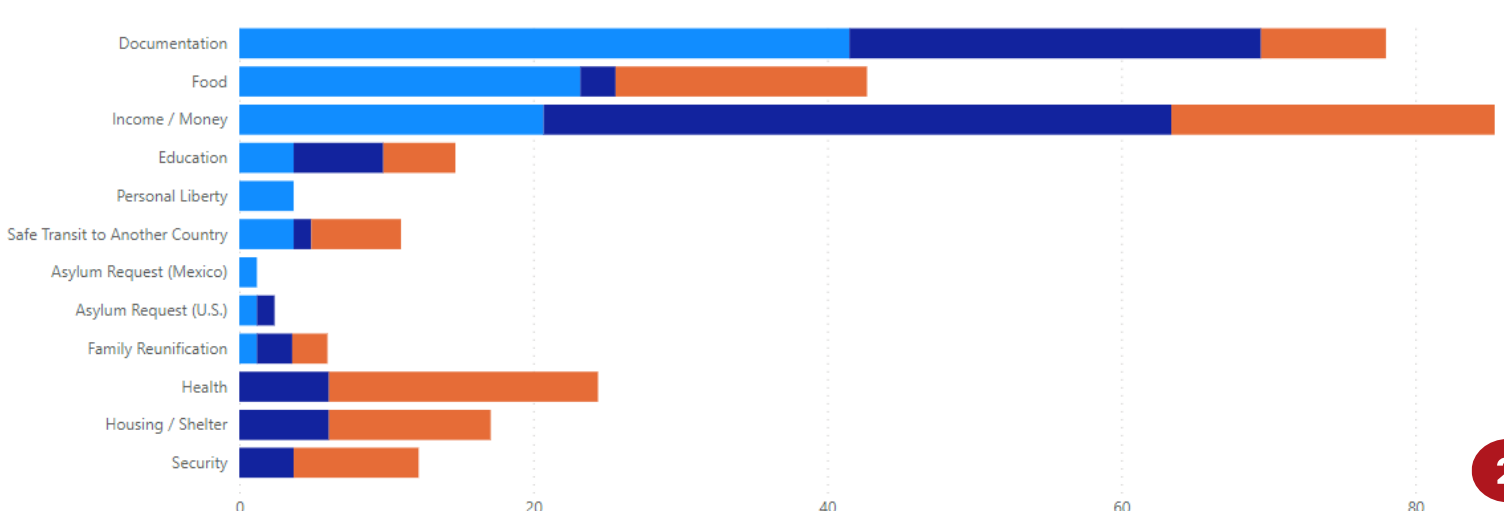
An important majority of people monitored during April – 62.3% - confirmed having specific protection needs due to at least one situation of vulnerability. Nearly a third of these relate to the population that faces language barriers, all of whom are from Haiti. 40.7% of respondents in Tapachula during April were Haitian nationals, of whom 71.7% reported some level of difficulty to speak or understand Spanish. Respondents experiencing language difficulties also includes some Haitian nationals in Ciudad Juarez, where local media sources report [patterns of discrimination](#). In Ciudad Juarez, at-risk caretakers (40.0%) are the main vulnerable group, followed by at-risk children and adolescents (23.6%). 95.5% of respondents who affirmed being alone and having child or another dependent were single mothers.

An important change was detected in the priorities of the population, particularly in Ciudad Juarez where the main priority reported was requesting asylum in the United States. This reflects the intensification during the month in the demand for information about access to the asylum procedure as a result of the imminent suspension of Title 42. In Tapachula, the persistence of documentation and economic income among the main priorities of the population demonstrates the complementary relationship between these variables.

CIUDAD JUAREZ



TAPACHULA



NORTHERN BORDER:

ANNOUNCEMENT OF IMPENDING SUSPENSION OF TITLE 42 CREATES HOPE IN CIUDAD JUAREZ

Following the [April 1 announcement](#) that the United States Center for Disease Control had decided not to extend the application of Title 42, there was a palpable optimism among the population of concern in this location. At the same time, some U.S. organizations continued programs through which particularly vulnerable cases could initiate the asylum procedure in the United States as exceptions to Title 42. The announcement together with the dynamics of exceptions created a sensation of movement after a long period of feeling stuck. Many of those monitored described feeling alleviated due to the perception that the indefinite wait would be coming to an end. Nonetheless, persons of concern had very little information about the challenges facing the suspension of Title 42 and the possibility that the May 23 deadline for removing the associated restrictions would not be respected. Monitoring revealed that the main sources of information for the population are Facebook and WhatsApp groups. As a result, official information on important issues often does not reach them.

Mid-April saw the announcement of the newly-created '[Somos Uno por Juárez](#)' network which unites 15 of the 23 shelters operating in Ciudad Juarez. Started by a group of workers and directors of some of the religious and civil society, the network seeks to promote the exchange of knowledge and experiences, while promoting greater efficiency in the use of economic resources for humanitarian response. In that way, the shelters within the network have benefited from training workshops implemented by international agencies and other humanitarian actors in the area. The measures to strengthen some of these spaces are expected to contribute in the response to [violence and the presence of armed groups](#) documented in some shelters in Ciudad Juarez.

SOUTHERN BORDER:

GREATER ACCESS TO THE TVRH AND PERSISTENT BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT LEAD PERSONS OF CONCERN TO ABANDON TAPACHULA

The reactivation of activities at the INM office in Tapachula and in 100 attention windows throughout the state of Chiapas marked a critical moment in this part of the country. Those monitored described a relatively easy process to obtain the TVRH, particularly for those who possessed a *constancia* accrediting their asylum-seeker status with the Mexican Refugee Aid Commission (COMAR). The challenges to obtain an RFC through the SAT so as to be able to access work opportunities led some respondents with the TVRH who intend to establish themselves in Mexico to consider abandoning Tapachula in order to process these documents in another part of the country. The prolongation of wait times for attention with the SAT and the congestion of this system during multiple months fueled successive movements within the country, regardless of the initial intentions of the persons of concern. In this context, the [private sector](#) in Tapachula has also positioned itself in favor the regularization of these sectors of the population in order to integrate them into the local economy.

