Unaccompanied Migrant
Children Returning to the Northern Triangle of Central America

Source: IOM Human Mobility Household Survey 2016

IOM implemented the Human Mobility Household survey at reception centers from November 2015 to March 2016 to enable information-based decision making for all key actors involved in the provision of services for returning migrants and their families.

Based on the principle of the child's best interests, no children were interviewed during this process. Instead, parents or legal guardians were interviewed while they waited for the child's arrival at reception centers.

Methodology

Target population: Returning unaccompanied migrant children and their household at the national level.

Data collection methodology: Cross-sectional household survey of parents or legal guardians of migrant children performed at returning migrants' reception centers.

Temporal scope: Migration/Human Mobility events that happened in the last five years.
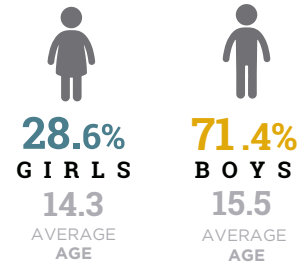
	El Salvador	Guatemala	Honduras
Total households	281	836	158
Women	809	2,518	481
Men	836	2,742	496
Total	1,658	5,302	981
Girls	77	197	48
Boys	166	594	95
Total	237	791	143

Unaccompanied migrant children

This section describes the general characteristics of the returning unaccompanied migrant children in the sample.

AVERAGE YEARS OF- SCHOOLING

Age Group	Girls	Boys	Expected years of **schooling**
12-15 years old	5.1	5.4	**6-9 years**
16-18 years old	6.1	5.9	**9-11 years**

28.6% GIRLS
14.3 AVERAGE AGE

71.4% BOYS
15.5 AVERAGE AGE

Average number of household members

5.7

5.7 *Average number of people in the household*

AGE	EL SALVADOR	GUATEMALA	HONDURAS
0-18	1.3	2.3	2
19-60	2.3	2.5	2.2
61+	0.3	0.3	0.2
MIGRANT CHILDREN	1.1	1.1	1.3
TOTAL	**5**	**6.1**	**5.7**

Who is responsible for the children at home

4.3% HOUSEHOLDS WHERE GRANDPARENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RETURNING CHILDREN

25.0% MONOPARENTAL HOUSEHOLDS

45.2% BIPARENTAL HOUSEHOLDS

10.0% HOUSEHOLDS WHERE AUNTS OR UNCLES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE RETURNING CHILDREN
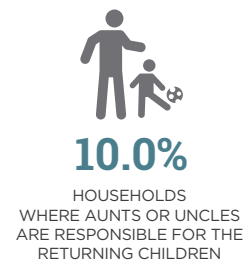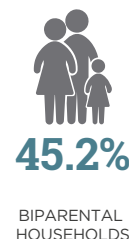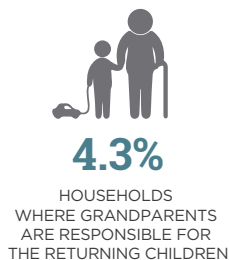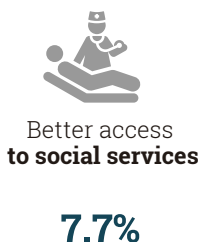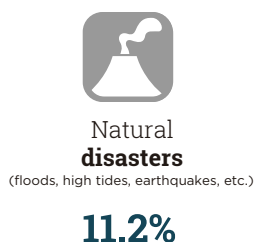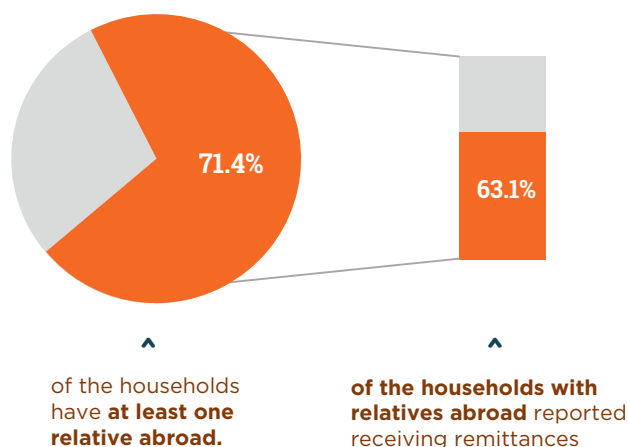
Reported reasons to migrate

This section presents the children's reasons to migrate as reported by their parents or legal guardians at reception centers. Respondents could provide more than one answer so percentages can add up to over 100%.

A multicausal analysis is provided in a Venn diagram considering only responses including violence/insecurity, family reunification and a combination of both better standards of living and employement.

Family **reunification**
21.9%

Better standards **of living**
39.5%

Employment
(search for opportunities, etc.)
33.5%

Violence **/Insecurity**
36.7%

Natural **disasters**
(floods, high tides, earthquakes, etc.)
11.2%

Deterioration of means of **livelihood related to drought, plagues, etc.**
2.7%

Better access **to social services**
7.7%

Others
7.5%

Multicausality

Analysis

Standards of **living/Employment**

42.6%

2.7% 6.8%

0.6%

31.3% 4.2% **11.7%**

Violence **/Insecurity**

Family **Reunification**

Family reunification

Family reunification is associated with parent-child relations. However, the extended family can play an important role in the child's migration. The data shows the majority of these households report to have at least one relative abroad. This section presents two key indicators from other sections in the survey to provide a brief snapshot of these "transnational families.

71.4%

63.1%

^

of the households have **at least one relative abroad.**

^

of the households with relatives abroad reported receiving remittances

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Violence/Insecurity

The chart below shows a classification of the acts of violence reported as the reason for the child's migration by the parent or legal guardian at the reception center. A very important limitation of this survey is that information on domestic violence is limited or non-available due to counter-incentives related to the respondents being the parents or legal guardians of the child.

Threats or harrassment: 90.2%

Murder/Murder attempt: 6.7%

Prevention (None directly) 12.5%

Extorsions: 5.8%

Robbery/Theft: 5.3%

0   20   40   60   80   100