

This snapshot provides an overview of the socioeconomic status and conditions of Venezuelan refugees and migrants before and during their journeys to Colombia and Peru. It aims to contribute towards a solid evidence base to inform targeted responses on the ground, as well as advocacy efforts related to the situation of refugees and migrants in the country.

### Key findings

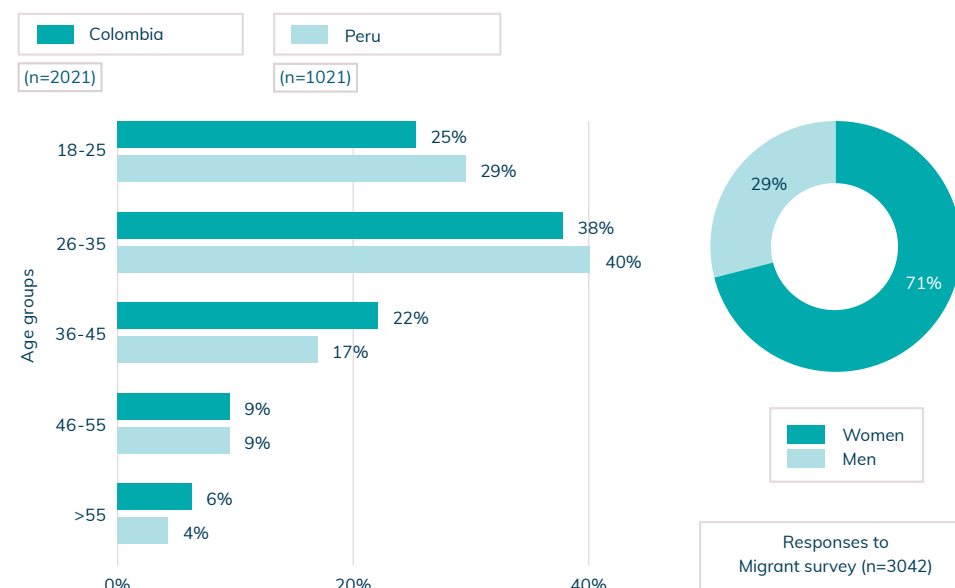
- **For almost two-thirds (64%)** of respondents, the **amount of money** initially planned to cover the journey **was insufficient**.
- **Respondents in Peru** appear to come from slightly **more advantageous socioeconomic backgrounds** which may have **an impact on their journey** and their **ability to pay for it**.
- **Respondents in Colombia** appear to have **more precarious backgrounds**, which may mean that they **are more vulnerable on the journey, and on arrival in Colombia**.

### Profiles

The analysis is based on 3,042 surveys, conducted between February and November 2021, partially by face-to-face interview (45%) and partially by phone (55%). 2,021 interviews took place in Colombia and 1,021 in Peru. In Colombia, 23% of the surveys were conducted in Barranquilla, 22% in Bogotá, 21% in Riohacha, 19% in Cucuta and the remaining 16% distributed in 15 different locations. In Peru, 55% of the surveys were conducted in Lima and 42% in Arequipa.

In both Colombia and Peru, 71% of respondents were women and 29% were men. A significant difference<sup>1</sup> of age distribution was found in the surveyed population: respondents in Peru were younger than respondents in Colombia (see Figure 1).

**Figure 1. Age ranges and sex**



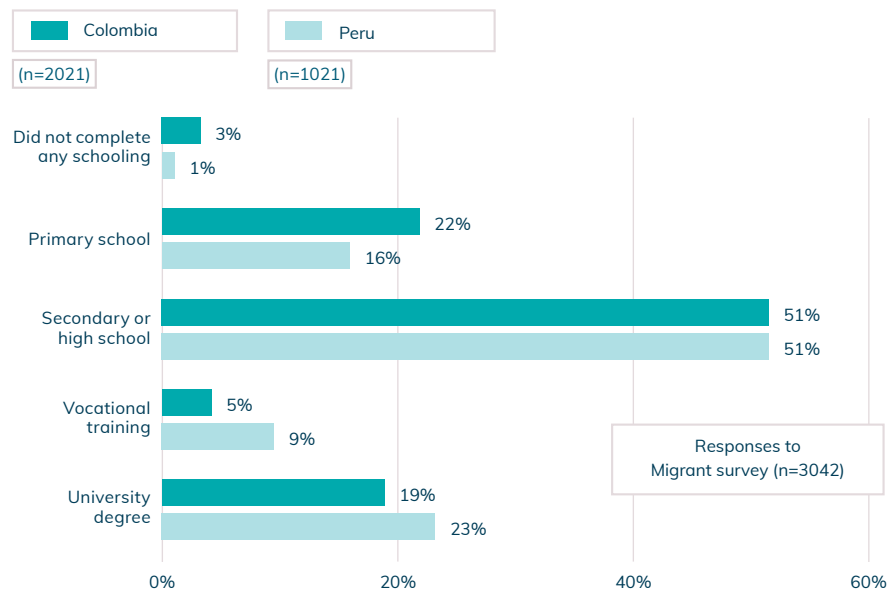
83% of respondents mentioned having children. However, only 68% of respondents reported traveling with minors. In Colombia, 85% of respondents reported having children and 70% were traveling with minors in their care. The proportion is lower among respondents in Peru: 79% reported having children and 63% were traveling with minors in their care.

<sup>1</sup> Significant differences identified throughout this analysis were found through z-tests at the 0.05 level of significance.

## Respondents surveyed in Peru reported higher level of education

51% of all respondents had completed secondary or high school. However, significant differences<sup>2</sup> were found when comparing the countries of interview (see Figure 2), with respondents in Peru reporting a higher level of education overall: 23% of respondents in Peru obtained a university degree (384/2021), versus 19% of respondents in Colombia (235/1021).

**Figure 2. What is the highest level of education you have completed?**



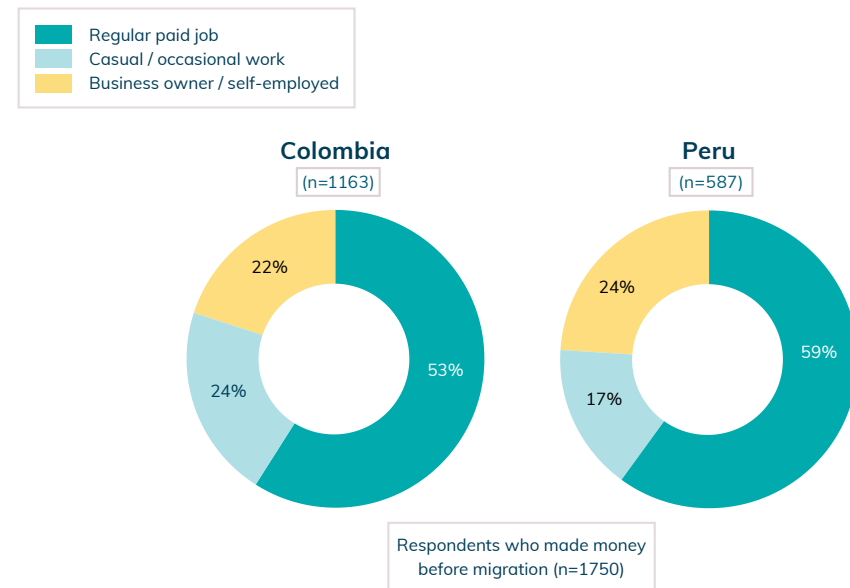
## Respondents surveyed in Colombia reported higher level of unemployment before departure

58% of all respondents reported having earned money in the twelve months before leaving Venezuela, and this was similar among respondents surveyed in Colombia (58%) and in Peru (57%).

<sup>2</sup> Significant differences identified throughout this analysis were found through z-tests at the 0.05 level of significance.

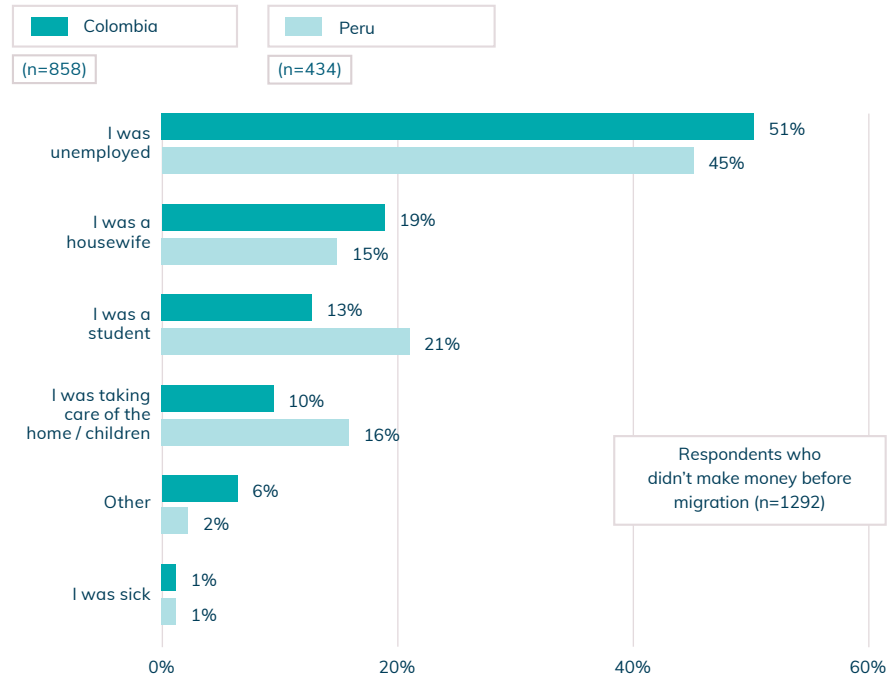
However, the type of occupation differs. The differences are not large, but are statistically significant, and suggest that respondents in Colombia had a more precarious background. A higher proportion of respondents surveyed in Colombia stated that they had a casual or occasional job (24%) before leaving the country than respondents surveyed in Peru (17%), and a statistically higher proportion of respondents in Peru had a regular paid job (59%) than respondents in Colombia (53%), before their journey (see Figure 3).

**Figure 3. How were you making money?**



The reason that 42% of the sample had not earned money in the last twelve months prior to the migration journey was predominantly unemployment: this was significantly higher among respondents surveyed in Colombia (51% versus 45% for respondents surveyed in Peru, see Figure 4), again pointing to higher vulnerability before leaving.

**Figure 4. Why were you not making money?**



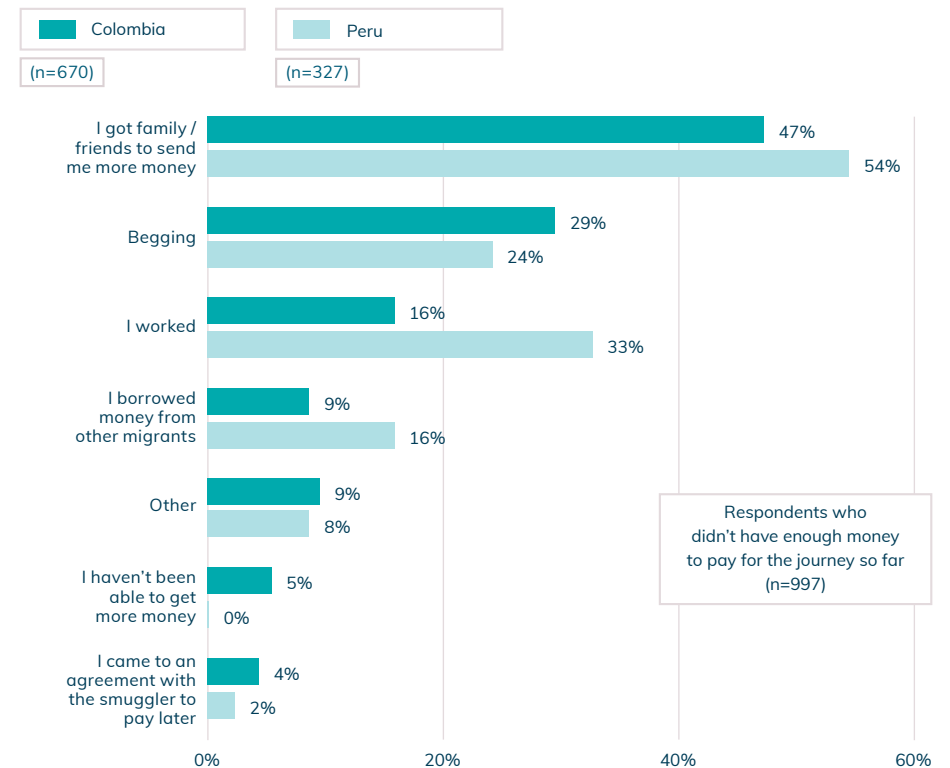
## 64% of respondents stated that the amount of money they had planned to pay for the journey was not enough

Almost two-thirds (64%) of respondents said that the amount of money they had planned to pay for the migration journey was not enough (63% of respondents in Colombia, 65% in Peru).

The average sum spent on the journey by respondents in Colombia was USD 133, and the average amount spent by respondents in Peru – who had travelled a greater distance – was USD 409. According to 4Mi enumerators in Peru, the main expenses for refugees and migrants are the cost of smuggling, transport costs, and bribes to cross borders. 92% of respondents surveyed in Peru travelled by bus, versus 73% of respondents in Colombia. According to 4Mi enumerators, a larger proportion of respondents in Colombia hitchhiked in cars or pick-ups (60% versus 25% of respondents in Peru).

For respondents who reported that the money they had planned to cover the journey was not enough, the most frequent strategy to raise additional money was asking family or friends (49% of all respondents), borrowing money from other migrants (11%) or working (22%). Respondents in Peru were significantly more likely to use money sent by family or friends (54%), by working during the journey (33%), or borrowing money from other refugees or migrants (16%). None in Peru failed to raise extra funds, in contrast to 5% in Colombia (see Figure 5).

**Figure 5. How have you paid for the journey since then?**



Note: Respondents may select more than one answer to this question. 4 answers with less than 3% of mentions were omitted.

## 4Mi data collection

[4Mi](#) is the Mixed Migration Centre's flagship primary data collection system, an innovative approach that helps fill knowledge gaps, and inform policy and response regarding the nature of mixed migratory movements and the protection risks for refugees and migrants on the move. 4Mi field enumerators are currently collecting data through direct interviews with refugees and migrants in West Africa, East Africa, North Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe.

Note that the sampling approach means that the findings derived from the surveyed sample provide rich insights, but the figures cannot be used to make inferences about the total population. See more 4Mi analysis and details on methodology at [www.mixedmigration.org/4mi](http://www.mixedmigration.org/4mi)