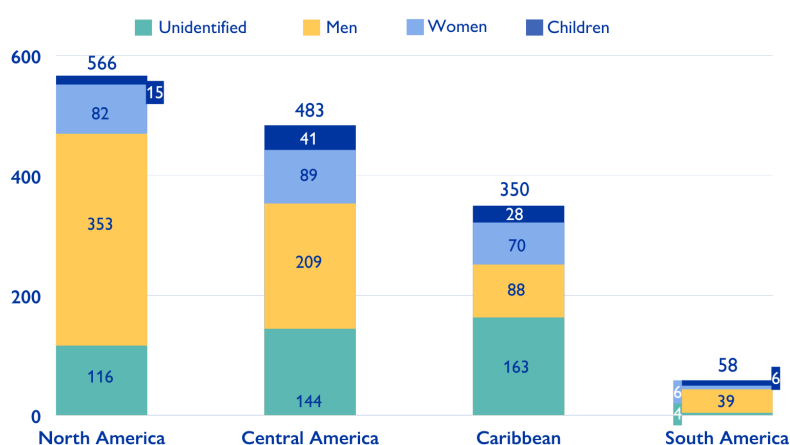


EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 1,457 fatalities recorded along migration routes in the Americas in 2022 marked the deadliest year on record in the region since at least 2014, when IOM’s Missing Migrants Project began documenting deaths and disappearances during migration. Of these, 566 deaths occurred in North America, 483 in Central America, 350 in the Caribbean and 58 in South America. Most of these fatalities are related to the lack of options for safe and regular mobility, which increases the likelihood that people see no other choice but to opt for irregular migration routes that put their lives at risk.



With at least 350 deaths recorded, a key trend in the Americas in 2022 was the unprecedented number of fatalities recorded on migration routes in the Caribbean. At least 269 people, including 70 females and 28 minors, lost their lives while attempting the dangerous sea crossings primarily to the mainland United States and Puerto Rico. The death toll on Caribbean routes in 2022 is nearly double the fatalities recorded in 2021 and more than in any previous year since 2014. The top three countries of origin of migrants who died in this region were Dominican Republic, Haiti and Cuba.

In 2022, 686 migrant deaths (including 105 females, 468 males and 29 minors) were recorded at the United States-Mexico border crossing, only 6 percent fewer than in 2021. However, in 2022, IOM was unable to access some official data that was recorded in the previous year, specifically data from several Texas border county coroner’s offices and the Mexican search and rescue agency. Therefore, the 2022 figure is probably lower than the actual number of migrant deaths at this crossing.

In the Darien, a border crossing area between Panama and Colombia, 141 migrant deaths in transit were recorded in 2022. However, this figure is not representative of the actual number of lives lost, due to the great challenges for data collection in this area. For example, between March and May 2022, IOM conducted more than 800 surveys of people who had just made the Darien crossing, of which 4 per cent reported that someone they were travelling with had gone missing. Through these surveys, 95 disappearances of migrants in the Darien were recorded in just two and a half months.

States across the Americas need to recognize that the growing death toll is a humanitarian emergency of great dimension, especially because it is likely that deaths during migratory transit are many more than IOM has been able to record. Better data is urgently needed, but ultimately, the creation of safe, regular migration routes that are accessible to more people is the most effective measure to reduce deaths during migration.