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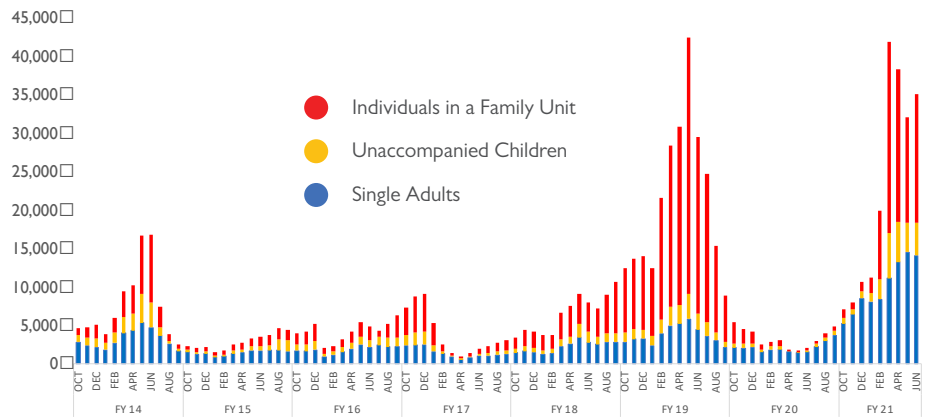


SNAPSHOT OF MIGRATION LEARNING AT USAID/HONDURAS

WHO MIGRATES? (2014-2021)

Between the beginning of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 through June 2021, approximately 800,000 Hondurans were encountered by Department of Homeland Security (DHS) / Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials at the U.S. southwest border. From mid FY2018 there have been dramatic peaks and troughs in these numbers, with peaks characterized by high numbers of migrants traveling in family units. Family units were the largest category (52%) of encountered migrants for the period 2014-2021.

Hondurans Encountered by CBP by Travel Status



Source: DHS/CBP Encounters, graph created by USAID/Honduras.

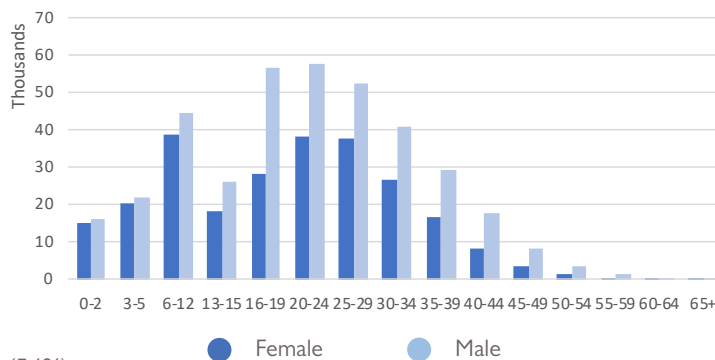
However, the recidivism rate (repeat encounters/total encounters in the same year) increased from an average of 13% in FY2018-2019, to 26% in FY2020, and in FY2021 through June, was running at approximately 37%. This may be due to the implementation of Title 42 that allows DHS to expel migrants to Mexico for public health reasons and may partially explain the migration spikes in FY2020 and FY2021.

APPREHENDED MIGRANTS (2013-2020)

Detailed information (age, sex, place of residence) about encountered migrants is only available for apprehended migrants (not those deemed inadmissible at the U.S. border) up to June 2020.

Apprehended migrants from rural and urban areas are similar in age, but there is a higher percentage of female migrants from urban areas. The proportion of migrants from urban areas was 63% over the period, which is more than the urban share of the Honduran population (54%).

Age and Sex Histogram



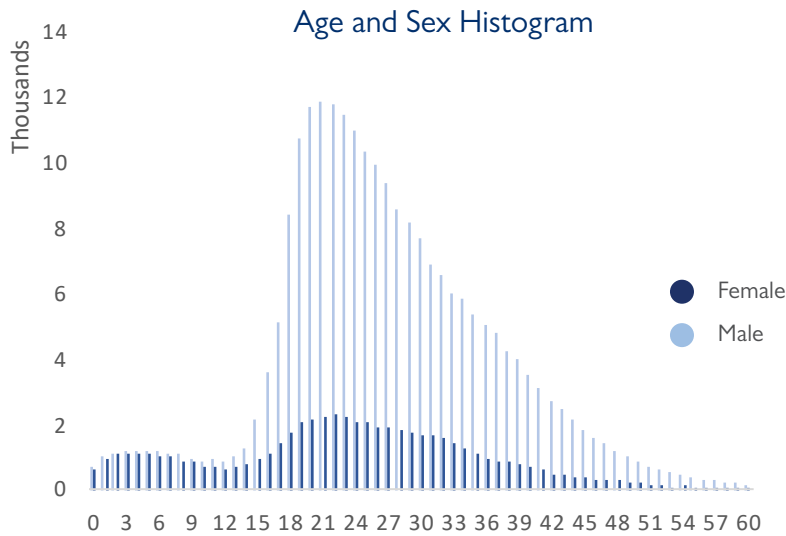
Age of Apprehended Migrants		
Variable	Rural *	Urban *
Average Age	23	20
Modal Age	16 - 17	16 - 17
Median Age	21	19
Sex of Apprehended Migrants		
	Female	Male
Rural *	37%	63%
Urban *	43%	57%
National	41%	59%

* Rural & Urban are defined by INE

Source: DHS/CBP Apprehensions.

RETURNED MIGRANTS (2016-2020)

Very few of the Honduran migrants returned by the U.S. between January 2016 and June 2020 were under the age of 18, accounting for only 2% of the returned migrants, even though they make up 21% of those apprehended in the period. Only 12% of returnees were female, and over 65% had not finished primary school education, compared to 57% nationally. During this period, Mexico returned the majority of Hondurans deported by foreign governments (57%), while 42% were returned by U.S. authorities.



Source: CENISS 2016-2020.

INTENTION TO MIGRATE

Studies at national, regional and more recently, global levels, show a strong association between intent to migrate and actual migration lows, with the relationship stronger for those who report having prepared in some concrete way (Tjaden, Auer, Laczko 2018, and Roy, E. 2013).

In the 2018 LAPOP AmericasBarometer survey, 38% of households intended to migrate to another country in the following three-year period. In the 2021 USAID MESCLA National Victimization Security and Migration Survey (NVSM), 55% indicated intention to migrate (40% to the U.S.). Interestingly, intent to migrate to the U.S. was higher among rural than urban inhabitants. Seventy-six percent of those who intended to migrate had begun some sort of preparation activities, and 78% of those intending to migrate said they were willing to do so without documentation.

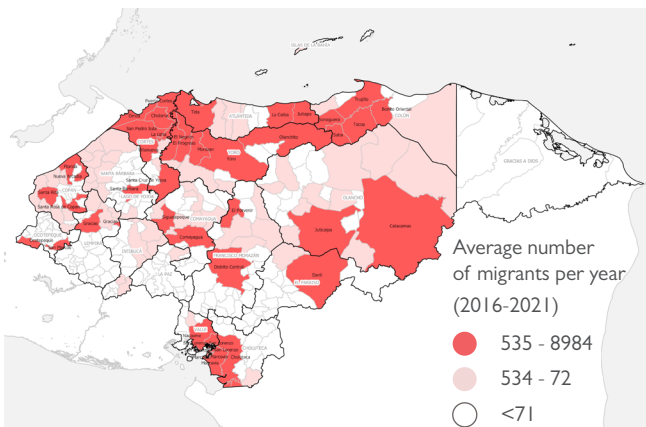
Source: NVSM, MESCLA 2021, LAPOP 2018

WHERE DO MIGRANTS COME FROM?

Migration in Honduras is a national phenomenon. Encountered migrants come from all municipalities. Returnees' residence municipalities (for which data is available since 2016) closely correspond with those of encountered migrants, although the numbers are much lower. Both encountered migrants and returnees are reflected in the map below (DHS/CBP 2013-2019, CENISS 2016-2021).

Average Number of Migrants 2016-2021

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Source: DHS/CBP SW Border Apprehensions, CENISS

Overall, the 39 municipalities highlighted in dark red on the map account for 67% of overall migrant encounters and returns in the 2013-2020 period.

GENDER



From 2013-2020, on average 40% of Hondurans apprehended at the U.S. border were women, varying from 27% in FY2013 to 44% in FY2019 and 34% in FY2020.

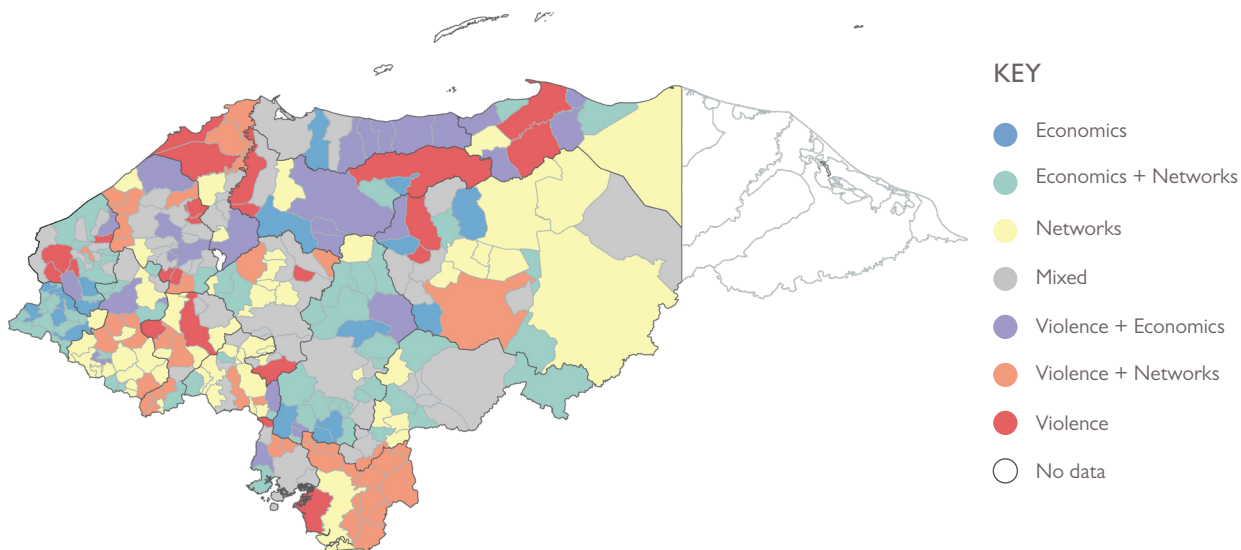
Women cite violence as their reason for migrating at almost twice the rate of men (CENISS), and they made up the majority of Honduran asylum seekers in the U.S. (Fondo Centroamericano de Mujeres, 2018; Foro para las Migraciones en Honduras, 2018; Willers, 2019; UNHCR). And among Honduran migrants availing of services from the Migrant Defender Network in Mexico from April to December 2019, overall 25% cited violence as a motive for leaving Honduras. Among women this was 41%.

WHAT DRIVES MIGRATION?

The drivers of migration are multi-dimensional and depend on global, national, municipal, community, family and individual factors. Migration patterns are similar across the Northern Triangle Countries. Within Honduras, municipal-level migration patterns mostly follow the national trends, suggesting that national and international factors affect municipal migration rates uniformly and are crucial drivers of migration patterns. Additionally, drivers do not act in isolation, but interact with one another. For example, violence can shape emigration through direct threats to physical safety or through enlarging migrant networks and/or affecting the local economy.

The series of factors presented in the map below explain 57% of the variance in municipal migration rates in the 2013-2019 period. This means that a change (positive or negative) in the variables mapped predicts a change in migration. Said another way, a “red” municipality means that any change (positive or negative) in homicides there would explain more of the predicted change in migration at the U.S. border than would a change in either economic or network factors. In the map below, 60% of municipalities have two or more explanatory factors, with family networks being the most predictive of the variables. Migration networks alone, a composite variable including remittance level/intensity and past migration, explained 29% of the variance in municipal migration from 2013-2019.

DRIVERS VARY ACROSS THE COUNTRY

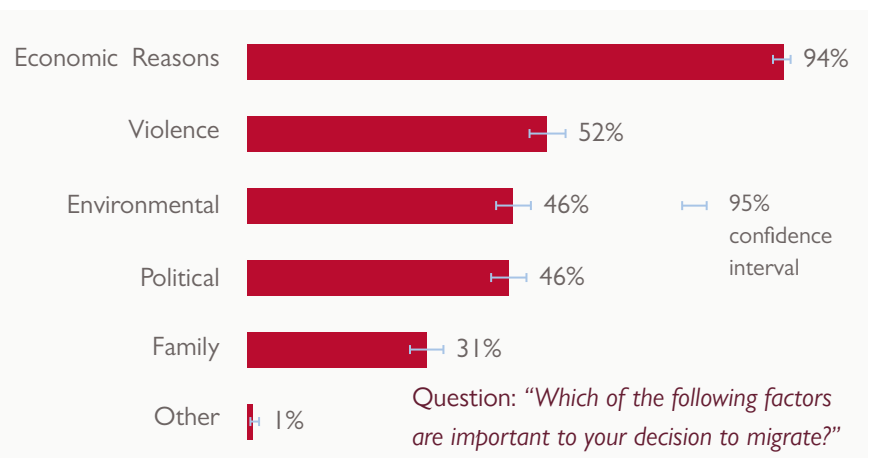


Source: DHS/CBP/INE 2013-2019

ECONOMIC DRIVERS

In the NVSM 2021, respondents with intentions to migrate cited economic factors in 94% of cases. Among those who are willing to migrate without papers, food insecurity is a critical factor. Those who are food insecure are 33% more likely to intend to migrate than those who are not. Hondurans who are food insecure and unemployed are 376% more likely to intend to migrate than those who are food and income secure (NVSM 2021). Violence, environmental factors (drought, storms and natural disasters), political factors and family reunification were also important reasons for intending to migrate.

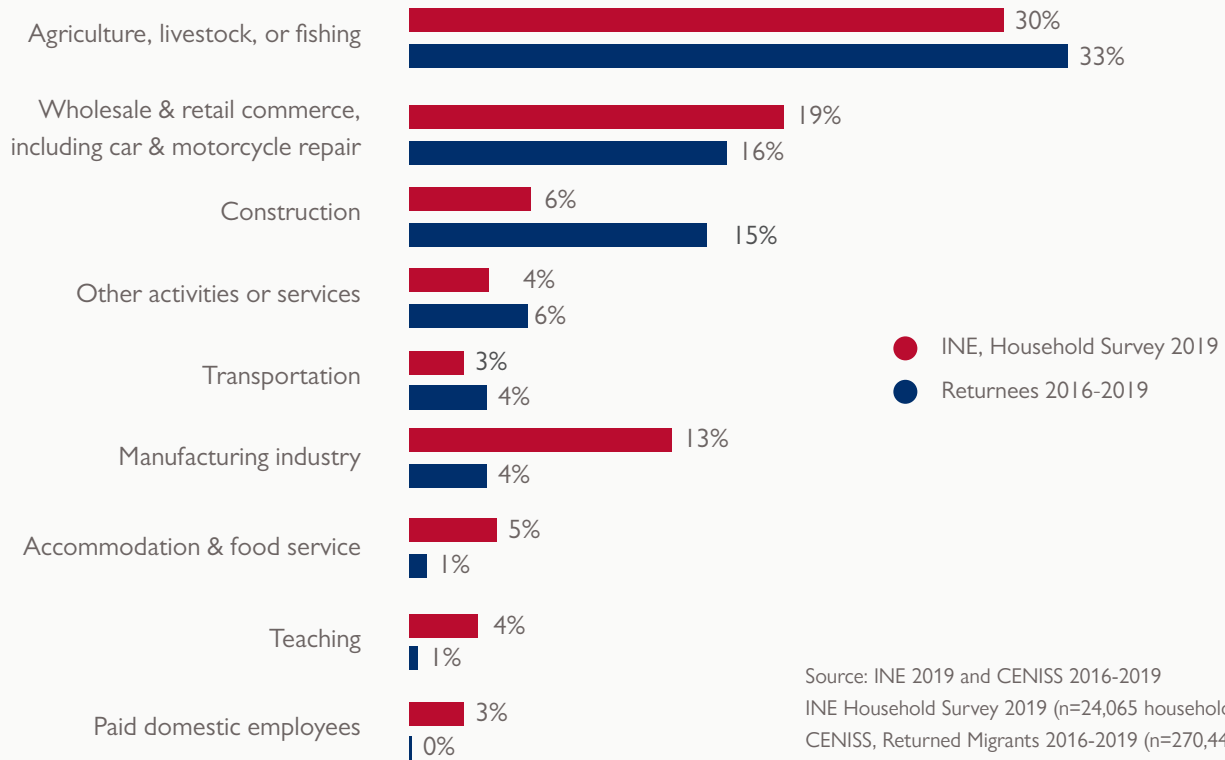
Reported Reasons for Intending to Migrate



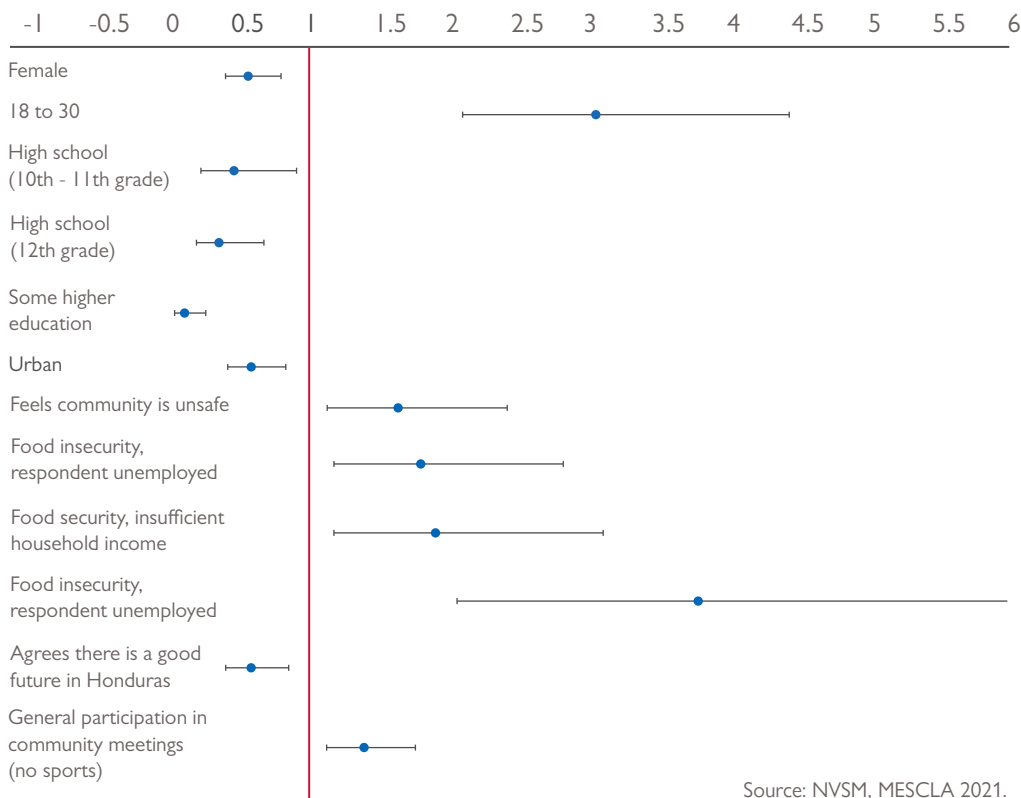
Source: NVSM, MESCLA 2021.

Top 10 Occupations of Returned Migrants vs. General Population

Returned migrants are less likely to work in salaried sectors than the general population. For example, there are far more returned migrants in the construction sector, characterized by casual day labor, than in the more formal manufacturing sector, and there are more returned migrants working in agriculture than there is in the general population.



Willingness to Migrate to the U.S. Without a Visa



Eighty four percent of those who intend to migrate to the U.S. are willing to do so without documents or a visa. This is even higher among 18-30 year olds at 88%.

Among this group (34% of the Honduran population), the probability of having migration intentions is highest among males, 18-30 year olds, those who have completed less than secondary education, have insufficient household income, live in a food insecure household (an effect exacerbated by unemployment), perceive their community as unsafe, participate more in community meetings, and do not see a good future for themselves in Honduras.

CORRUPTION, CRIME AND DEMOCRACY

USAID and MESCLA analyzed data from LAPOP 2018 AmericasBarometer and the USAID/FHI360 2019 study on corruption, democracy and migration in Honduras. The probability of a victim of corruption having intentions to migrate is higher than those who are not victims of corruption (FHI360, LAPOP). Being a victim of both corruption and crime increases intentions to migrate; however, the effect is more dramatic for victims of corruption and crime who are also dissatisfied with democracy, with intentions to migrate at 57% for the FHI 360 sample and 67% for the LAPOP sample. This is significantly higher than that of their non-victimized peers who are not dissatisfied with democracy, among whom only 18% and 40%, respectively, have intentions to migrate.

Intentions to Migrate (%) By Experience of Victimization (Or Not) And Dissatisfaction with Democracy (Or Not)

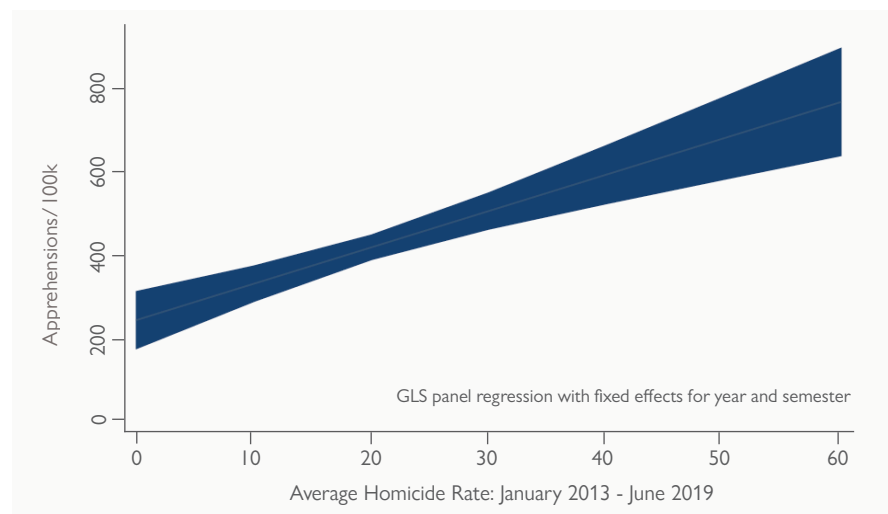
	Database	
	FHI 360	LAPOP
Non-Victim of Corruption or Crime and not Dissatisfied with Democracy (basis of comparison*)	18%	40%
Victim of Corruption	29%	49%
Victim of Crime	32%	49%
Dissatisfied with Democracy	25%	50%
Victim of Corruption + Crime	47%	58%
Victim of Corruption + Dissatisfied with Democracy	38%	59%
Victim of Crime + Dissatisfied with Democracy	42%	59%
Victim of Corruption + Crime + Dissatisfied with Democracy	57%	67%

Source: Logistic regression model estimates, with all other variables held constant.

VIOLENCE

High Homicide Rates Are Associated with High Migration

Municipalities with higher homicide rates have higher irregular migration flows. Additional analysis shows that overall homicide numbers, the cumulative rate, and the annual change in the homicide rate explain 11% of the variance in municipal migration from 2013-2019. In a regression using data from the NVSM Survey 2021, among those intending to migrate to the U.S., people who felt unsafe in their community were 64% more likely to intend to migrate.

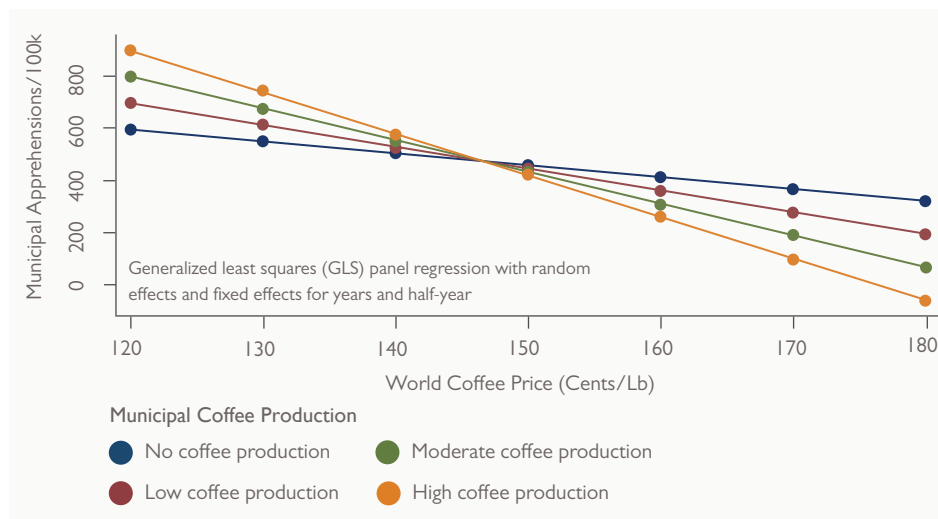


Source: DHS/CBP; SEPOL: Registro de fallecidos. Analysis by MESCLA.

DRIVERS LINKED TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

Coffee Price Drives Migration Most Where Coffee Is More Important to the Local Economy

Over one million Hondurans directly depend on coffee harvest. Coffee is the largest agricultural export and the second largest export overall in Honduras, and the whole country is affected when prices decrease, such as when prices hit historic lows in September 2018. When world coffee prices are higher, Honduran migration rates are lower across the board. According to the model, if a municipality produces no coffee (blue line), a 20 cent drop in price from USD 1.60 to USD 1.40 would result in a 22% increase in the municipality's migration rate. If the municipality is a high coffee producer (orange line), the drop would result in a migration increase by 120%.

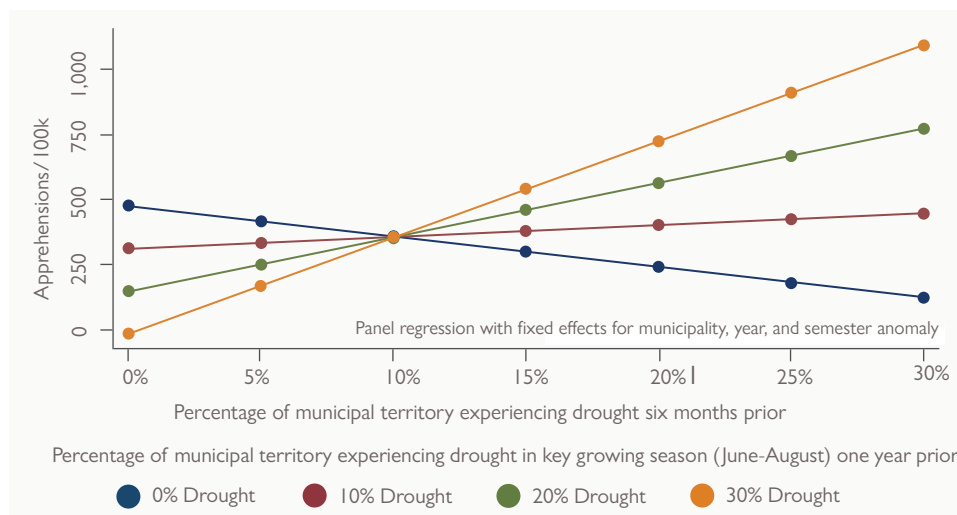


Said another way, at the national level, a five-cent decline in the world coffee price predicts 160 more migrants per 100,000 population. At scale, that would mean 14,400 more migrants from Honduras.

Source: DHS/CBP; IHCAFE; U.S. coffee futures, Mild Arabica month-ending price 2013-2019. Analysis by MESCLA.

Drought Impacts Migration

Drought and migration go hand-in-hand in Honduras. There have been consecutive droughts in Honduras's Dry Corridor from 2016-2020, on the heels of the worst drought in 30 years, which occurred in 2015. Increases in drought predict increases in migration, even when controlling for other factors. Analysis shows that home-municipality drought (as measured by the FAO's Agricultural Stress Index or ASI) has a long-term and cumulative impact on the U.S. border apprehension rate. For example, in the average Honduran municipality, a ten percentage point increase in municipal drought, sustained over five years, predicts about 90 additional apprehensions in the current year.



The extent of land affected and the duration of drought interact to increase migration. For example, a drought last season followed by another this season and the following increases migration exponentially. Increases in drought predict increases in migration, even when controlling for other factors.

Source: DHS/CBP; Normalized Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) avg. half-yearly and June-August maximum negative anomaly. Analysis by MESCLA.

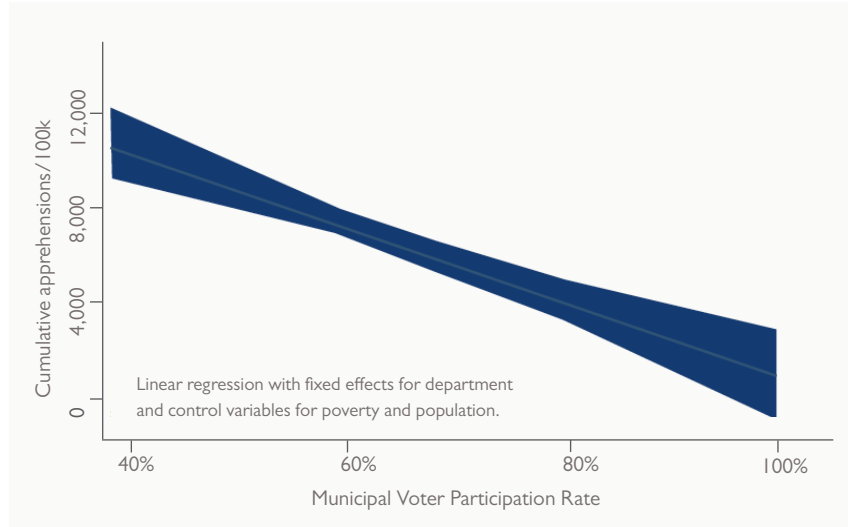
WHAT INDICATES ROOTEDNESS?

EDUCATION

In a 2019 study by FHI 360, individuals with complete secondary or some higher education had lower intentions of migrating than their peers with no formal education or incomplete primary education. The probability of having intentions to migrate for a person with some university education was 9% and for a person with complete secondary education it was 12%, much lower than the 20% among those who have no formal education or some primary education.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Actual municipal migration falls as the level of voter participation increases, supporting the hypothesis that citizen engagement is a sign of rootedness, or commitment to remain in the country (MESCLA 2020). Relatedly, dissatisfaction with democracy is an important driver of migration among middle-class respondents in nine urban areas in Honduras in 2019. A person who is dissatisfied with democracy is 1.4 times more likely to intend to migrate than those who are satisfied with the state of democracy, holding constant base characteristics such as sex, age, income, and education (USAID/Honduras CAA Corruption and Migration Study, data analysis by MESCLA, 2020).

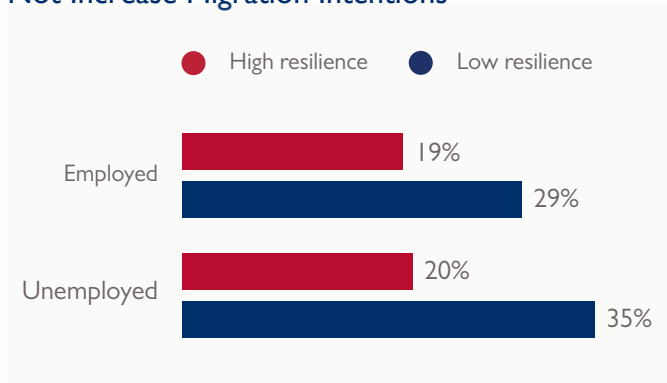


Source: DHS/CBP; TSE voter file, 2013 and 2017. Analysis by MESCLA.

RESILIENCE

Protective and risk actors affect intent to migrate among youth (ages 16-29) participating in the Empleando Futuros workforce development activity (Empleando Futuros Performance Evaluation 2020). Those with intent to migrate to the U.S. are less resilient, perceive less community cohesion, have more difficulty with emotional regulation, and have higher levels of post-traumatic stress disorder than those who do not. Resilience was the most important predictor of lower migration intentions among these factors. In fact, among those with high resilience, intentions to migrate remain low, even among those who are unemployed. A recent midterm evaluation of the GENESIS Activity also showed a small decrease in the intent to migrate when resilience rose (MESCLA,2020).

For Resilient Youth, Unemployment Does Not Increase Migration Intentions



Source: Empleando Futuros Performance Evaluation, 2020

THE IMPORTANCE OF HOPE AND COMMUNITY FACTORS

Fifty-eight percent of the Honduran population said they do not see a good future for themselves and their families in Honduras (61% of youth), and among people willing to migrate without documents, those who see a good future are 36% less likely to intend to migrate.

In a regression analysis of intentions to migrate the U.S, those who agree that Honduras holds a good future for them, and that their community is their true home, are 88% less likely to have intentions to migrate than those who disagree that the future is good and do not see the community as their true home.

Source: NVSM 2021, MESCLA.