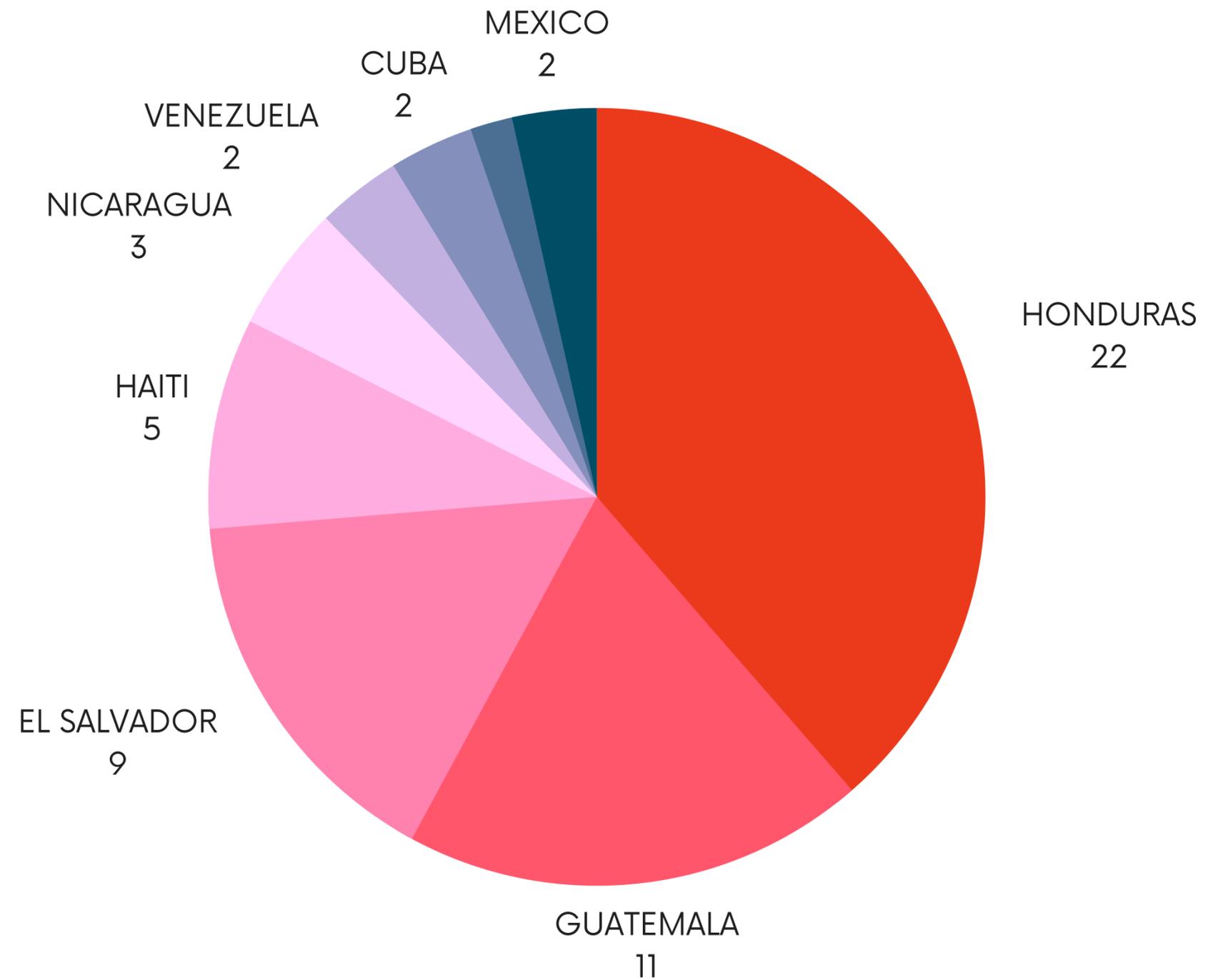


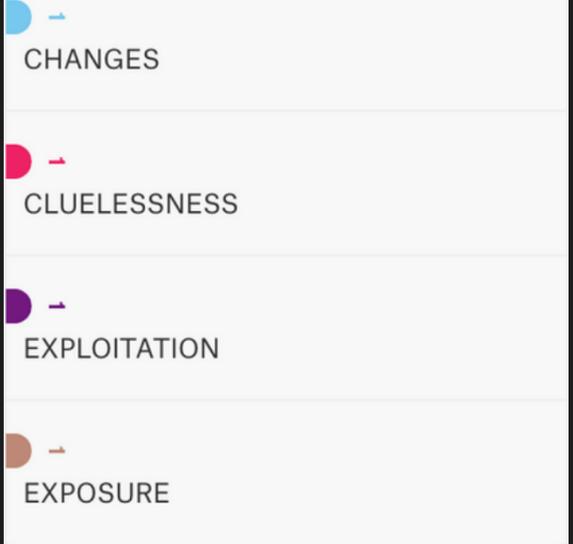
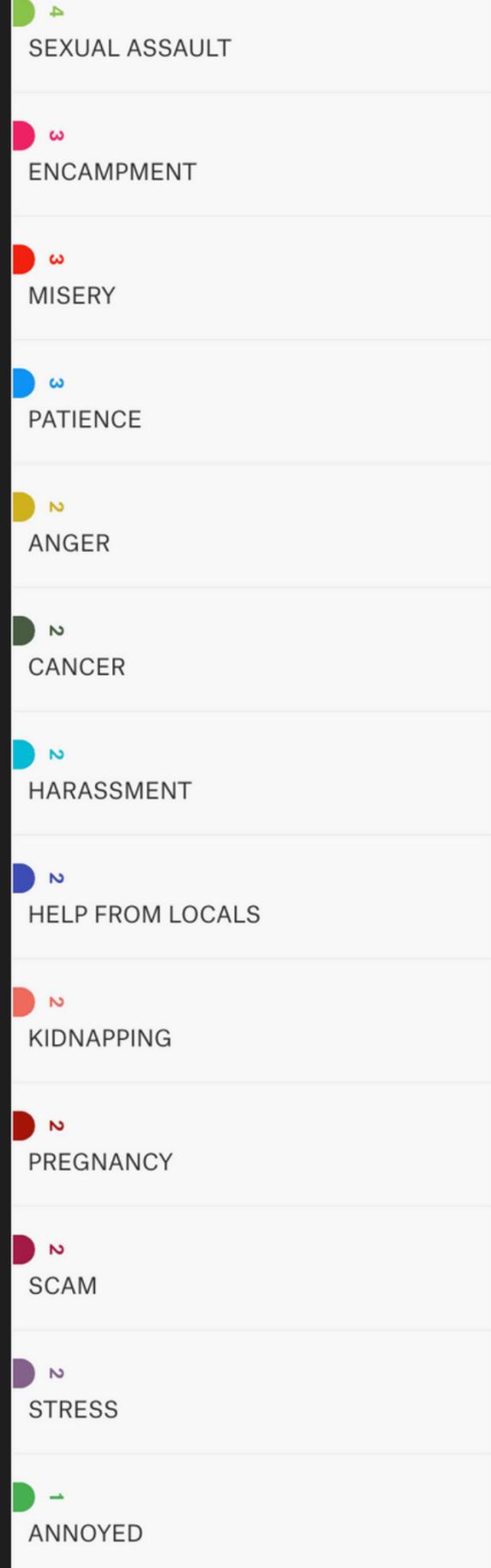
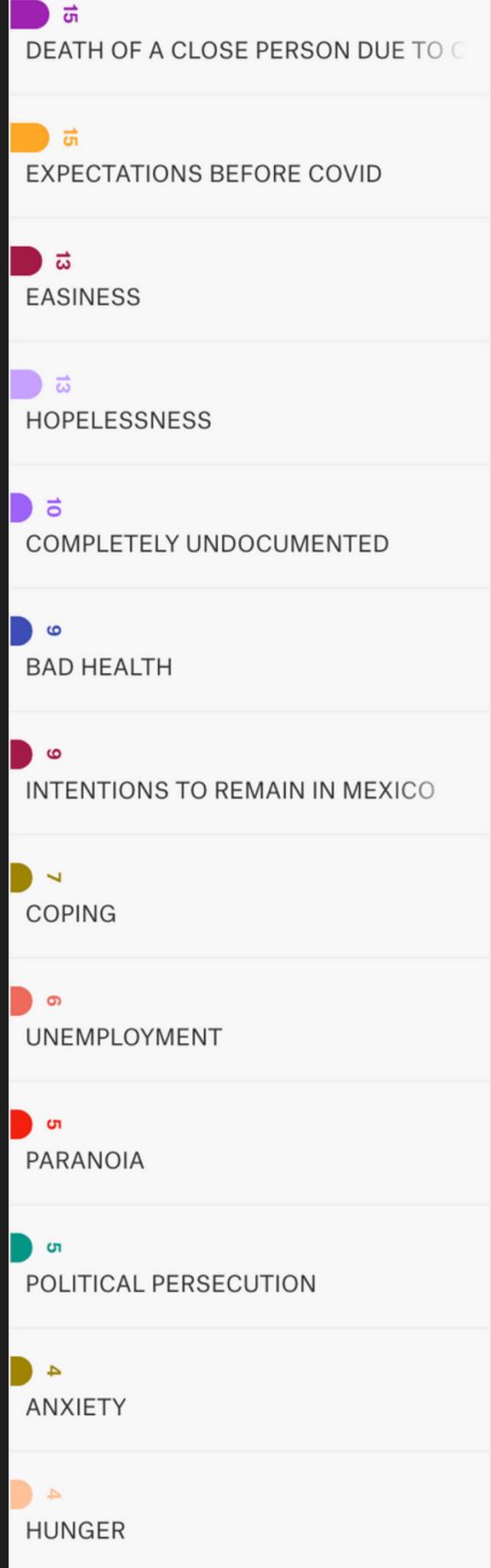
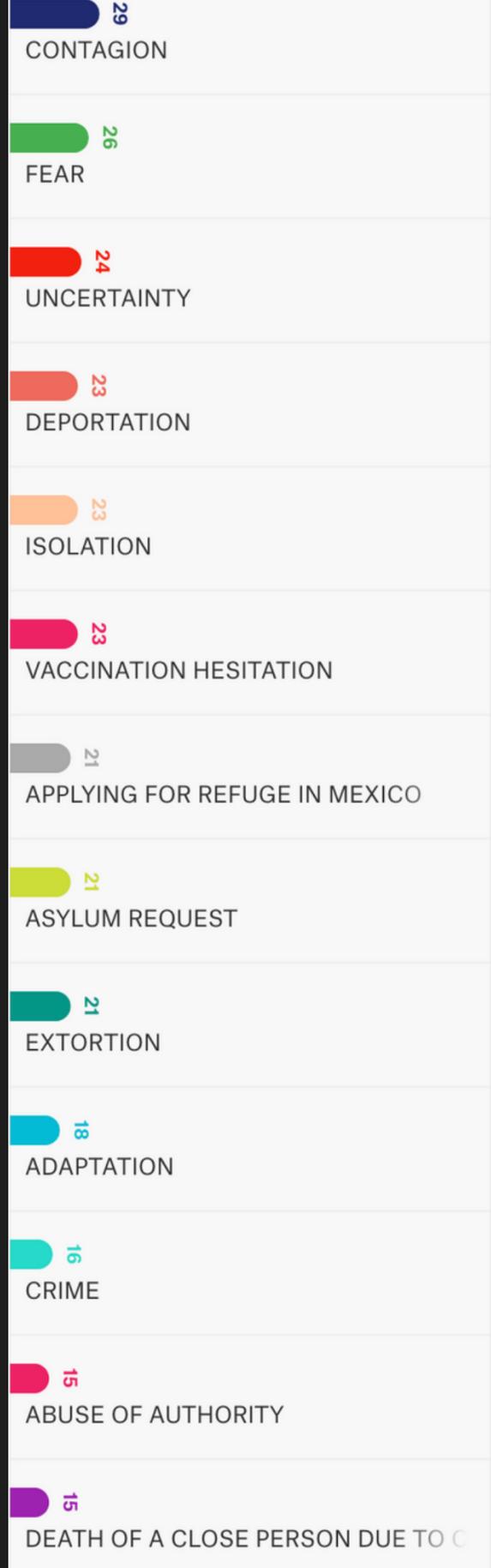


FURTHER QUALITATIVE INSIGHTS ON
COVID-19 AND MIGRATION IN MEXICO

57 TOTAL INTERVIEWS

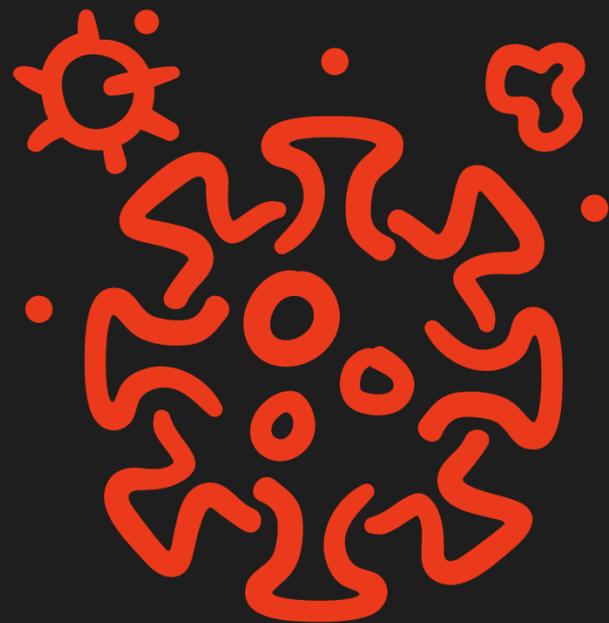
29 WOMEN
28 MEN







Most interviewees are more concerned about their chances of making it into the US than the pandemic



Their chances to make it into the US are still their main concern; the pandemic and its effects are background noise.

	Juarez	Matamoros	Tapachula	Tijuana
ANGER	1	0	1	0
ANNOYED	0	1	0	0
ANXIETY	0	0	4	0
CLUELESSNESS	0	1	0	0
DEPRESSION	9	8	7	6
EASINESS	2	0	7	4
FEAR	9	3	9	5
FRUSTRATION	15	8	6	23
HOPELESSNESS	10	3	0	0
ISOLATION	10	3	9	1
MISERY	0	2	1	0
PARANOIA	1	1	3	0
PATIENCE	1	1	0	1
UNCERTAINTY	7	7	1	9

“What frustrates me the most is the downtime, you start thinking ‘wait a moment, this is not right”, and I just feel how everyone is just fed up and how we are all burdened because you are stuck and there is no way to let off all this steam, there are no chances or spaces to live humanly, you just lose it”

TJ-01-F

"I got vaccinated as soon as I arrived in Tijuana, people from the shelter commanded me to do so; I didn't get any secondary effects (...) they were clear about vaccination being voluntary, but I didn't want to risk it with migration (...) I can't say that I've been affected by the pandemic while being here, I guess that the most bothersome thing is having to constantly wash our hands and use facemasks, but other than that, I don't feel depressed or anything, if only you know what we had to go through in Honduras (...) my country is badly run and it was really bad down there, we couldn't even leave our homes and we had no food nor medical care (...) I have even heard rumors about how people that are getting vaccinated in Honduras are dying because of the vaccine, but not here (...) I was expecting Mexico to be more rigid but I didn't encounter a lot of trouble (...) the waiting is what's killing us, other people traveling with me lost it when we got here and were told that the border was closed because of COVID. I have seen people who have lost it and taken drastic measures, such as venturing with a smuggler or even doing drugs just to pass time"

TJ-04-M

"They gave us access to medicine, facemask and whatnot, but we were so many, using only one bathroom, life was tough in there so I left it (...) I've been waiting for the US to take my case again, they told us that because of COVID-19 they had to bring down the phone application that we were instructed to use for requesting asylum, I'm just waiting for it to go back online (...) I think I already got infected, but I was asymptomatic (...) it is more contagious in Honduras (...) I'm waiting on the vaccine because I wasn't here in the encampment when they came to apply it (...) I don't want to get it but I don't really have a choice"

TJ-06-M

"I feel pandemic related restrictions are almost the same between Mexico and Honduras, although it does feel more relaxed here without curfews (...) I wasn't sure about getting the vaccine, I know many people in Honduras who died because of it, when we got to the encampment though, they said that we all had to get it (...) they said that it wasn't compulsory, but that we had to get it if we wanted to avoid trouble with US authorities on the other side"

TJ-07-M

"(...) things are pretty bad in Cuba, there is no work, and when you find some, it is poorly paid (...) I lost all my documents here, I was robbed and left without a penny, that's when I started living in a shelter (...) I haven't gotten the virus yet but a friend of mine caught it, he got well after a week or so (...) I try to follow the sanitary measures but it is very different from Cuba (...) in there you get huge fines for not wearing a facemask"

JZ-01-M

"(...) things are difficult, especially when you have to share a shelter with so many people; I could find someplace to rent, but I'm afraid something's gonna happen to me if I do so (...) most of my relatives in Honduras got infected, luckily nobody died, up here I haven't had it yet, but I'm not as afraid of it as I once was (...) I just keep using my facemask and disinfectant (...) I'm not sure about getting the vaccine but I might have to get it just to avoid more trouble with the US authorities (...) I'm really desperate about being stranded"

JZ-03-F

"The border closure due to COVID-19 has been really tough for me, I wasn't able to get my baby girl to be born in the US, me and my wife got deported and stranded in here, they changed my baby's life forever because of it (...) during my time here, I've caught COVID-19 twice, luckily I haven't died (...) psychologically it's been tough, physically not so much, I'm just desperate for my situation to get solved, all of this is a scam so that pharmaceutical companies can get rich off us (...) I haven't been vaccinated but I guess I would do it (...) compared to Nicaragua, Mexico almost looks as if there weren't any restrictions, not a lot of people seem to care out here on the streets"

JZ-05-M

"(...) I know a lot of people who have died in Honduras because of COVID-19, three aunts among them; it has been hard but the most difficult thing is knowing that there is nothing that you can do about it (...) I just keep using my facemask and disinfectant whenever possible (...) I don't want to get the vaccine because of everything that people has been saying about them, if it comes to it, I will get the shot, but not because I want it (...) feeling isolated is one of the most awful feelings that one can experience, that and the uncertainty of not knowing if you're gonna be allowed into the US or not"

JZ-12-M

"The cop told me to sign and pay a fine for not presenting a negative COVID-19 test, they told me to get tested and I had to pay for it, they even threatened me, saying that I was a risk for everybody else, and that I was contaminated (...) we were stopped and robbed near Nuevo Laredo, we lost everything, documents, money (...) the virus is nothing compared to what we have to endure just to have a chance to get into the US"

MT-03-M

"I'm on MPP and I've been waiting since december (...) I live on the streets, sometimes I am able to visit some shelters just to get something to eat (...) I try not to pass as a foreigner as much as possible, I know that people in shelters and encampments are easy targets, not just for the virus but for criminal groups and policemen trying to extort those of us who have relatives in the US, or even back home"

MT-04-M

"In the past we didn't have to wear a mask during our trip up north, and we weren't fearful of this virus that can be lethal, or so they say (...) lucky me, I've been everywhere, I've interacted with lots of people and I haven't had any major issues; I did get infected, but it was like a flu and that was it (...) I will get the vaccine just because the US requires it for us to get it"

MT-06-F

"Due to the pandemic I lost my job and I was being extorted by local gang members (...) arriving in Mexico with nothing in your possession, literally starting out from zero, you stop thinking about the virus (...) I don't care if I can't make it into the US, I am willing to request asylum in Mexico as well (...) I will get the vaccine if it's required of me"

TP-04-F

"I couldn't get to work, only certain people were allowed to break the curfew, based on a random number assigned by the government. I wasn't selected so I was completely isolated, it became unbearable (...) I haven't had that sort of trouble in Mexico, I can move around freely as long as I wear a face mask"

TP-05-M

"We had a full lockdown, you couldn't even go outside to get water or food, unless you were selected by the government based on your ID number (...) things got worse because the gangs started to notice that people were stuck in place, and they were able to pick on you directly at home, this is why I left my country"

TP-07-F

"When I heard that the border was closed I didn't know what to do. Luckily, a couple told me about the possibility of requesting asylum here, and that's what I've been doing (...) I try keeping my distance just to lower the chance of contagion (...) a lot of acquaintances have died because of the virus, but I try not to think that much about it (...) things are starting to relax here in Mexico, I don't know if it's been like this the whole time, but it feels more relaxed than in Honduras"

TP-08-F

Thank you!

