



ECONOMIC INCLUSION PROJECT (EIP)

INTEGRATION STUDY

OF VENEZUELAN MIGRANTS PARTICIPATING IN EIP/WOCCU
IN QUITO AND GUAYAQUIL (ECUADOR) AND LIMA AND CALLAO (PERU)



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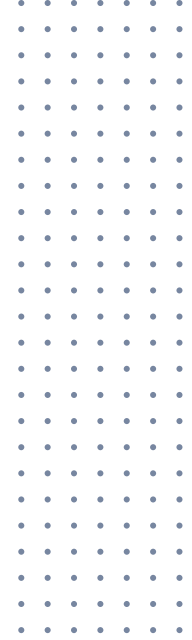
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ACRONYMS

EIP

Economic Inclusion Project

ENPOVE

Survey Directed at the Venezuelan Population Residing in the Country

GBV

Gender-based Violence

GTRM

Working Group for Refugees and Migrants

IPL

Immigration Policy Lab

UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

USAID

United States Agency for International Development

WOCCU

World Council of Credit Unions



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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION



Since 2014, there has been an unprecedented exodus of Venezuelan nationals. According to data from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), by November 2023, it was estimated that more than 7.72 million Venezuelans had left their country, of which 6.54 million (84.7%) were refugees or migrants in other Latin American and Caribbean countries. Thus, Peru and Ecuador have become two of the primary host countries, with more than 1.5 million and 474 thousand Venezuelans residing in their territories, respectively.

This mass migration has caused a humanitarian crisis in which Venezuelan migrants face numerous challenges, such as a lack of access to decent housing, formal employment, education, health, and essential services. Many are also victims of discrimination, xenophobia, and exploitation.

In response to this crisis, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU) are implementing the Economic Inclusion Project (EIP) in Peru (Lima, Arequipa, Trujillo, Piura, and Ica) and Ecuador (Quito, Guayaquil, Cuenca, Manta, and Ibarra). EIP supports activities that improve the overall economic well-being of Venezuelan migrants and refugees, facilitating their integration in both countries.

Despite the challenges, EIP has made significant progress in integrating the Venezuelan migrant population participating in project activities in Peru and Ecuador. However, much remains to be done. Cooperation between governments, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector is essential for this population to achieve socio-economic integration and build a more prosperous and inclusive future for everyone.

The **“Integration Study of Venezuelan Migrants Participating in EIP/WOCCU in Quito and Guayaquil (Ecuador) and Lima and Callao (Peru)”** was developed between May and June 2024 to measure progress towards integration of the Venezuelan migrant and refugee populations supported by EIP. The study’s methodology takes its parameters from the Immigration Policy Lab (IPL) Integration Index¹, with a multidimensional approach covering six key areas: psychological, social, economic, political, linguistic, and navigational.

¹The Migrant Integration Index is a project of the IPL of Stanford University and ETH-Zurich. Its short and long versions, “IPL-12” and “IPL-24,” have been created as a means of measuring versatile and pragmatic results. <https://www.integrationindex.org/theintegrationindex>



CHAPTER II

STUDY OBJECTIVES

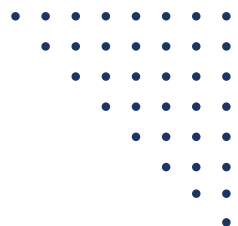


General Objective

Measure the level of integration of the Venezuelan migrant population in Peru and Ecuador and EIP's impact.

Specific Objectives

1. Measure the level of integration of the Venezuelan migrant population in Peru and Ecuador by applying specialized methodology.
2. Identify EIP's impact based on evidence and data compared with a control group.
3. Provide information and evidence to EIP's public and private sector partners and national and international allies to facilitate the creation of joint public policies promoting migrant integration.
4. Promote successful and sustainable integration of the Venezuelan migrant population based on lessons learned from EIP.
5. Provide feedback to IPL on the study's results and promote discussion on the need for methodological adjustments or improvements.





CHAPTER III

MULTIDIMENSIONAL APPROACH TO MEASURE MIGRANT INTEGRATION

Integration Index – IPL

This study adopts a holistic approach to evaluating migrant integration, considering its multidimensionality. EIP understands integration as the migrant’s ability to build a full and satisfactory life in their new environment. This involves both mastering practical skills and having personal and social resources.

To measure this complex reality, EIP used the IPL Integration Index, a flexible and adaptable tool that evaluates six key integration dimensions: Psychological, Linguistic, Social, Economic, Political, and Navigational. Based on interviews, this index allows a comparative evaluation of integration levels without presupposing renunciation of cultural identities of origin.

Each integration dimension is assessed by two to four questions, some of which vary according to the respondents’ profiles. The answers to these questions are scored on a scale of one to five and then standardized on a scale of zero to one for easy comparison. There is no weighting in this standardization. The overall integration score maintains the calculation procedures applied for the dimensions. Therefore, it is not the average of the scores for each dimension.

Given that Venezuelan migrants in Peru and Ecuador speak Spanish, considerations have been taken into account regarding the linguistic regarding the linguistic dimension, focusing on the necessary changes that do not distort the calculation of the general index.

INTEGRATION DIMENSIONS

 Linguistic	 Psychological	 Social	 Economic	 Political	 Navigational
This captures how the interviewees have valued their ability to read, speak, write, and understand the dominant language of the host country.	This captures the interviewees’ feelings of connection with the host country, their desire to continue living there, and their sense of belonging.	This captures social ties and interactions with host country residents as well as bridging social capital as evidenced by participation in organizations along with the local community.	This captures income level, employment, satisfaction with employment situation, and the ability to meet different levels of unexpected expenses.	This captures how much the interviewees understand the main political issues facing the host country, their level of political awareness, and participation in discussions of that nature.	This captures their ability to manage basic necessities in the host country, such as going to the doctor, addressing legal problems, and looking for work.

Source: Migrant Integration Index of the IPL



CHAPTER IV

RESEARCH DESIGN

The study gathered information from primary sources, i.e., surveys and focus groups with the Venezuelan and local population served by EIP from September 2020 until May 2023. These were coordinated by EIP’s MEL team according to a sampling framework and sample distributed in Quito and Guayaquil, Ecuador, and Lima and Callao, Peru.

Aspects of Primary Research

4.1 Sampling Framework

EIP Participants: For this study group, EIP has a sampling framework composed of the local Venezuelan migrant population residing in Quito and Guayaquil, Ecuador, and Lima and Callao, Peru, who participated in EIP’s employment and entrepreneurship activities between September 2020 and May 2023.

SAMPLING FRAMEWORK: EIP PARTICIPANTS 2020-2023

Country	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	Total
Ecuador	835	1207	477	2,519
Peru	2,987	2,415	348	5,750
Total	3,822	3,622	825	8,269

NON-EIP Participants: There is not a reference sampling framework for the Venezuelan migrant population.

4.2 Sample

For the EIP participants, the study is based on a probabilistic sample chosen from a database of participants in EIP activities who were assisted between 2020 and 2023 through systematic sampling that ensures the representativeness of results by intervention areas. Statistical criteria such as a 95% confidence level and a 5% margin of error were considered to determine the sample size, adjusting for a 20% non-response rate. In its efforts to reduce gender gaps, EIP is characterized by greater attention to women, who represent 76% of the project’s beneficiaries.

A control group (NON-EIP) was included to evaluate the impact of the interventions. However, in the absence of a specific sampling framework for the Venezuelan migrant population not participating in EIP, a non-probabilistic sampling strategy was chosen in which participants who covered the survey quotas were randomly channeled through a network of partners that serve the Venezuelan migrant population daily. In this respect, and in line with a better analysis that ensures comparability between both groups, EIP used a matching technique by sex, age, and geographic location. This allowed EIP to control factors that could influence the results and ensure the validity of the comparisons. The sampling quotas established are as follows:

PLANNED SAMPLE: EIP PARTICIPANTS 2020-2023

Country	Sample	Control Group	Total
Ecuador	811	811	1,622
Peru	927	927	1,854
Total	1,738	1,738	3,476

Once EIP completed the information-gathering stage, EIP obtained the following as an effective sample:

EFFECTIVE SAMPLE: EIP PARTICIPANTS 2020-2023

Country		EIP	NON -EIP
Ecuador	Planned	811	811
	Realized	929	744
	%	114.5	91.7
Peru	Planned	927	927
	Realized	841	860
	%	90.7	92.8
Total	Planned	1,738	1,738
	Realized	1,770	1,604
	%	101.8	92.3

4.3 Research Instruments Applied

The survey form used in the integration evaluation is based on the original IPL methodology form, to which the EIP team has added supplementary topics it considers necessary to understand aspects related to the target population’s integration and to evaluate EIP’s first phase.

i. Online Surveys: These were based on the proposal of digital survey forms and shared via links. Therefore, support from consultants and the participation of institutions linked to Venezuelan refugees and migrants was important.

ii. Focus Groups: The guides for the focus groups were developed based on the same structure and theme as the online surveys, which allowed for qualitatively complementing information gathered online. For this purpose, the study held focus groups of 10 to 12 participants and a facilitator.

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en Perú



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CHAPTER V

STUDY RESULTS

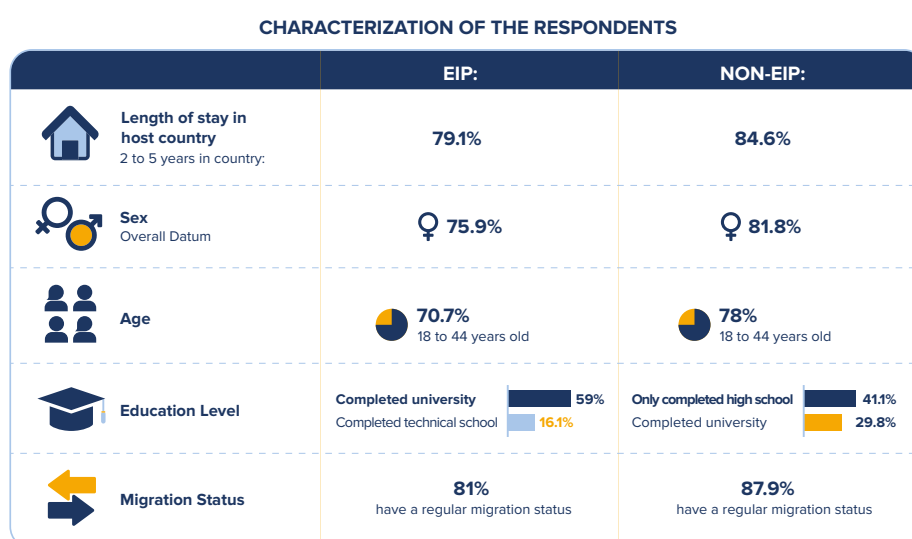
For the integration study, only the Venezuelan migrant and refugee population of the total EIP and NON-EIP population surveyed has been considered.

Table 1. Surveyed Population by Country and Group (Individuals)

Country	EIP	NON- EIP	Total
Ecuador	351	361	712
Peru	707	852	1,559
Total	1,058	1,213	2,271

5.1 RESPONDENTS' PROFILES EIP/NON-EIP

From the data obtained, EIP determined the following variables: sex, age, length of stay in the host country, education level, and migration status, which were used to compare the characteristics of the study groups.



Although the characterization variables show differences of six to seven percentage points, which suggests a certain homogeneity between the samples, it is essential to recognize that EIP's beneficiary population has unique characteristics in the context of migrant support. Despite efforts to build a control group (NON-EIP) with similar characteristics, the complexity of the migration context makes it difficult to attain perfect comparability between the two groups. To mitigate this limitation, EIP proposes developing a specific document that explores strategies to improve the control group's representativeness and reduce possible biases in future research. On the other hand, in a disaggregated manner, most of the surveys were conducted with women, reflecting the composition of EIP's beneficiaries, and there is a 5.9% difference between the percentage of women in the EIP group and in the NON-EIP control group. 79% of EIP respondents have lived in the host country for 2 to 5 years compared to 84.6% of NON-EIP respondents, a 5.5% difference. There is only a 7% difference in percentage of respondents between 18 and 44 years old among the EIP and NON-EIP groups. In addition, the percentage of respondents identified as having a regular migration status differs by only 7% (81% EIP vs 88% NON-EIP).

In education level, there is a similar level of 21% of technicians with complete and incomplete studies among EIP and NON-EIP groups. However, the most significant gap is at the university level, between 30% and 59%. This represents a 29-point difference, although if completing high school is compared with completing technical and university studies, the difference goes down to only 3 points. Finally, a resultant variable is economic activities, which presents an important difference since 43% of NON-EIP individuals say they are not currently working, which is related to the results of the Peruvian Survey Directed at the Venezuelan Population Residing in the Country (ENPOVE) that reports that 29% of women were unemployed in 2022 in Peru as well as reports the worsening context of the economic environment in both Ecuador and Peru over the last two years.

Surveyed Population by Sex

Table: Distribution of the Surveyed Population by Country, Sex, and Group (%)

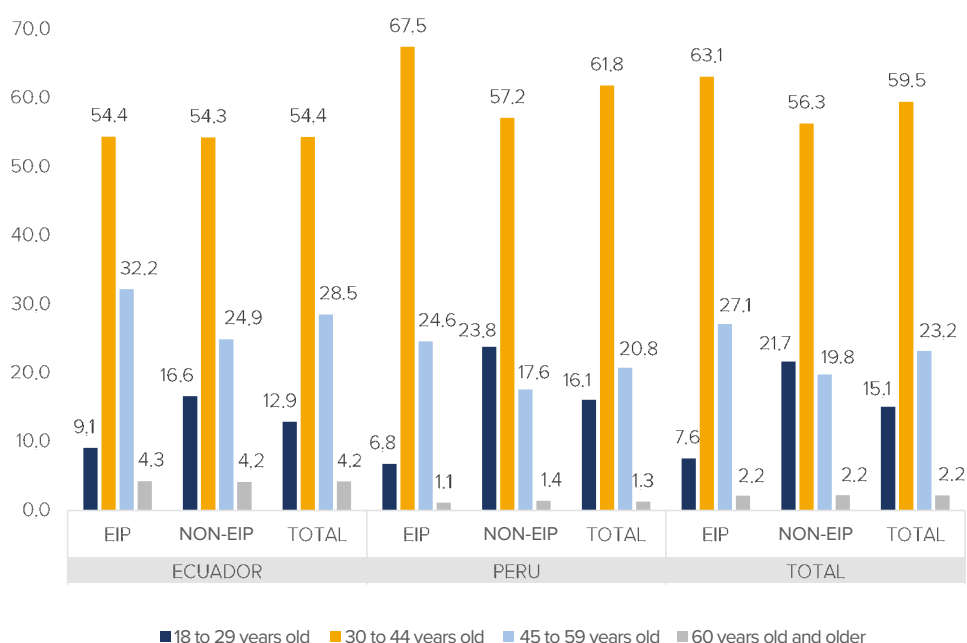
Sex	ECUADOR			PERU			TOTAL		
	EIP	NON-EIP	TOTAL	EIP	NON-EIP	TOTAL	EIP	NON-EIP	TOTAL
Female	78.6	78.4	78.5	78.5	83.2	79.3	75.9	81.8	79.0
Male	21.4	21.6	21.5	21.5	16.8	20.7	24.1	18.2	21.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The proportion of the surveyed sample broken down by sex aligns with the profile of the population EIP has served over the last three years: 76% of the respondents were women. Also, 82% of NON-EIP respondents are women.

Surveyed Population by Age Range

In general, of the Venezuelan migrant and refugee population interviewed, 90% of the EIP group is represented by individuals between the ages of 30 and 59. This age group is also the majority of the NON-EIP group (76%). On the other hand, young people between the ages of 18 to 29 made up 15% of the total respondents.

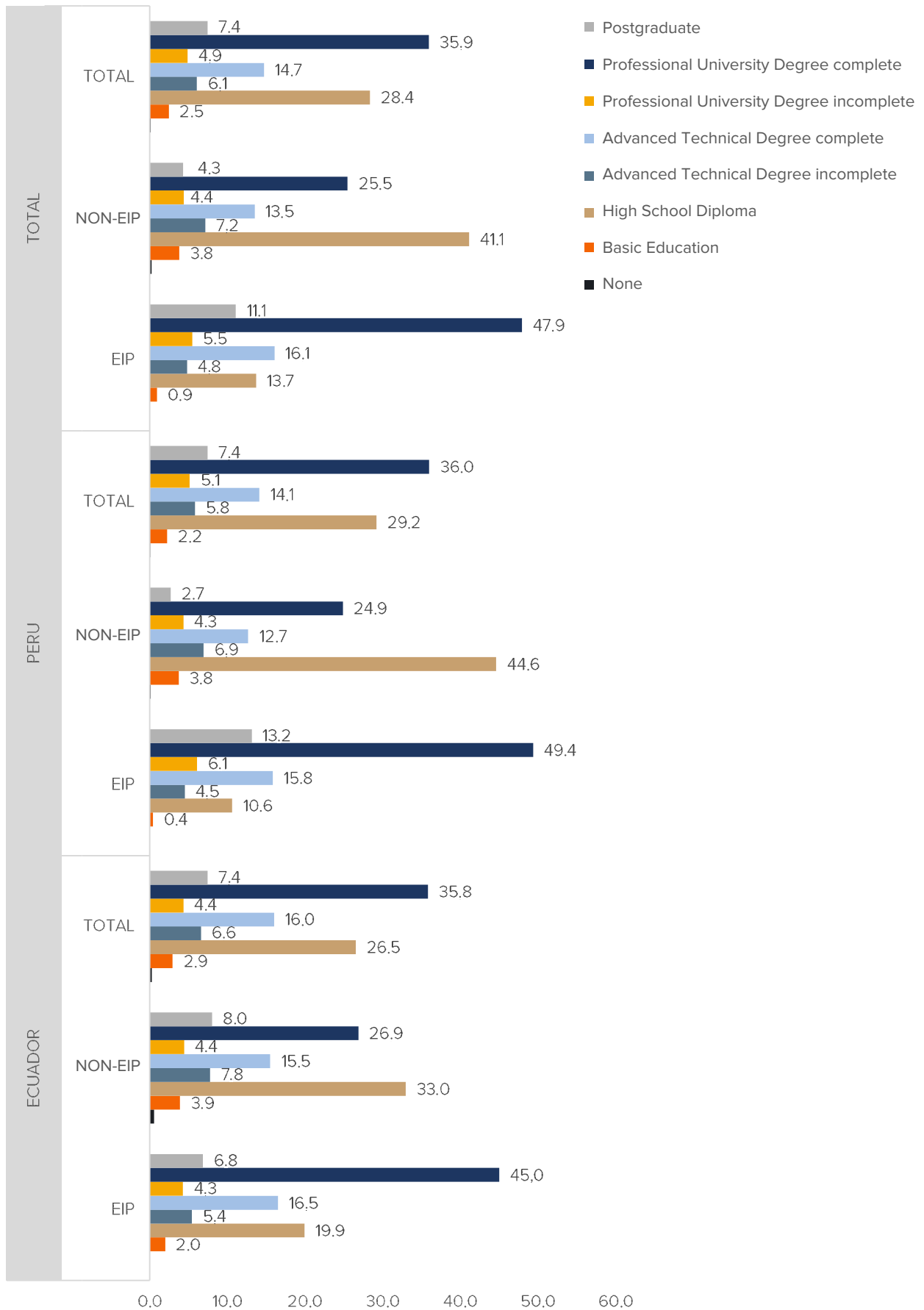
Graph 1: Percentage of the Surveyed Population by Age Range, Country, and Group (%)



Surveyed Population by Education Level

The respondents' educational distribution shows a wide gap among the EIP and NON-EIP groups. The EIP group has a significantly higher concentration of individuals who have completed higher education, both technical (16.1%) and university and postgraduate studies (59%). By contrast, the NON-EIP group shows considerably lower rates (13.5% and 29.8%, respectively). This educational disparity underscores the pre-existing inequalities in Venezuela. It poses significant challenges to migrants' labor and social integration in the host country by limiting their opportunities and perpetuating inequities. It should be noted that, despite having professional or technical degrees, a significant proportion of Venezuelan migrants in the host country are forced to perform jobs not requiring their formal qualifications, with low survival-level incomes. This suggests that they must undergo a title recognition process attributable to EIP's technical support, making it possible for them to make a difference in the quality of their employment.

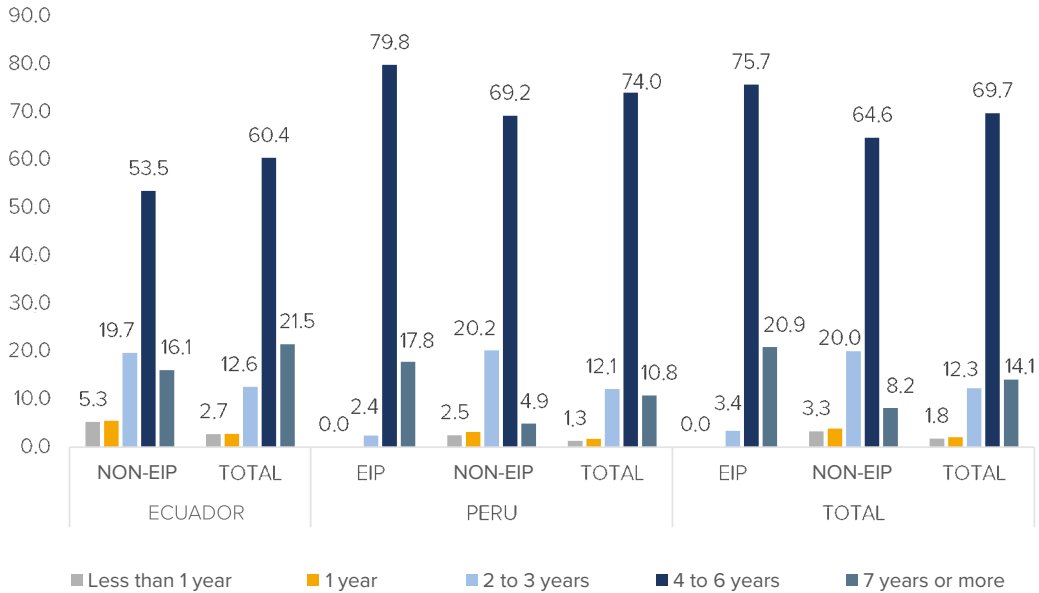
Graph 2: Percentage of the Population Surveyed and Education Level



Surveyed Population by Length of Stay in the Host Country

It is generally observed that the majority of Venezuelan migrants and refugees have been in the country for four to six years (EIP 76% and NON-EIP 65%), with a significant proportion having been in the country for seven years or more (average 14%). In addition, 12% are in the two to three-year range, in which the majority are NON-EIP.

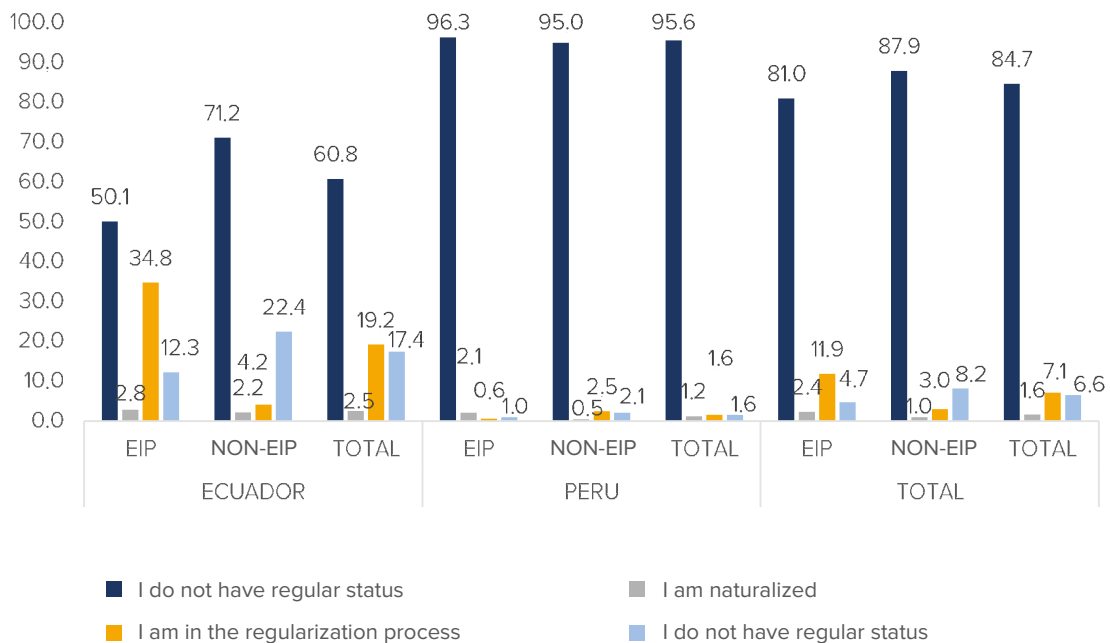
Graph 3: Percentage of the Population Surveyed and Years Living in the Host Country



Surveyed Population by Migration Status

Most Venezuelan migrants and refugees surveyed, 85%, have regularized their migration status, with a significant proportion in the regularization process (7%). However, 7% of Venezuelan migrants and refugees have not regularized their migration status, with most cases being in the NON-EIP group. A total of 2% are already naturalized.

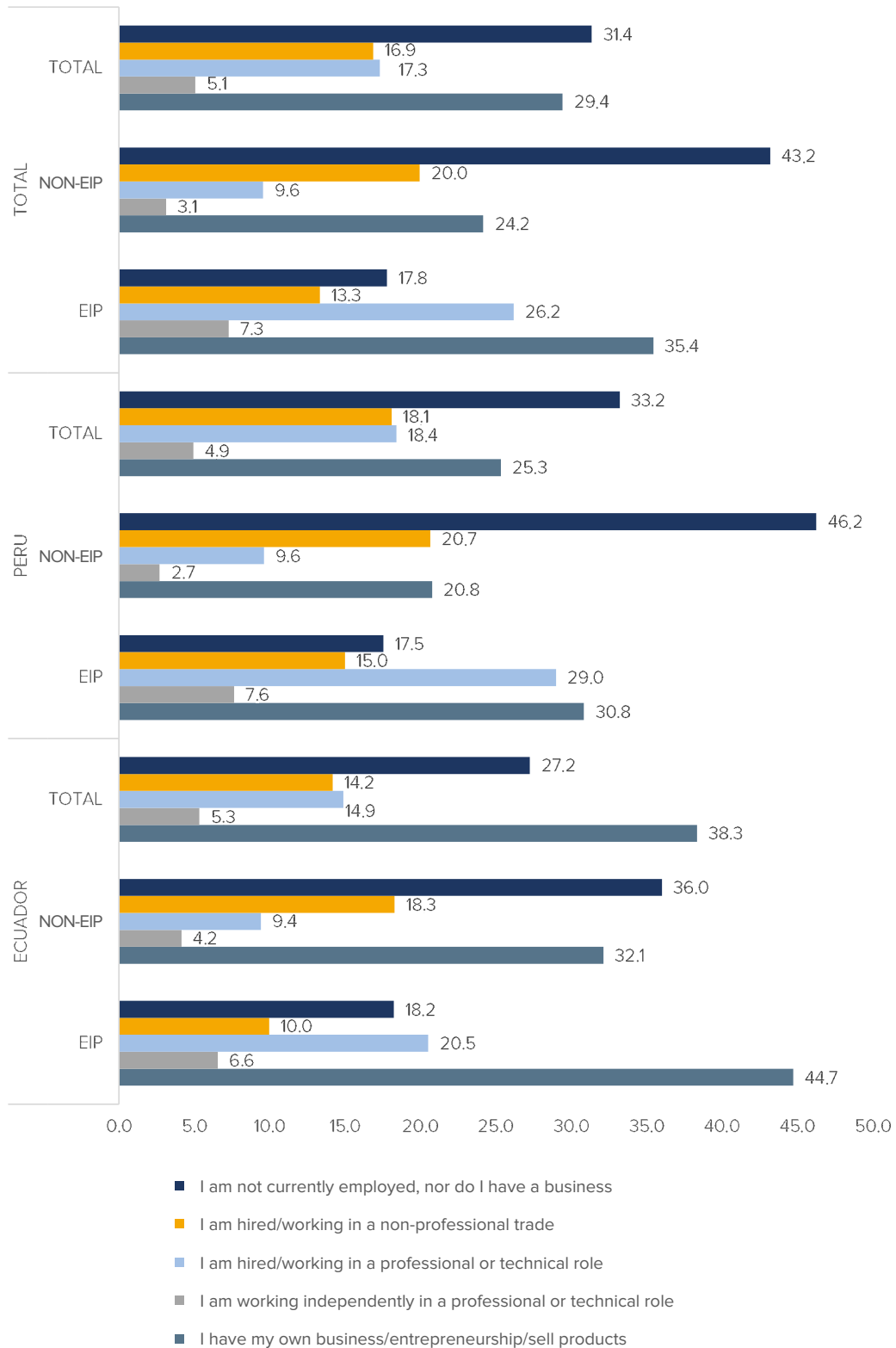
Graph 4: Percentage of the Population Surveyed and Migration Status



Surveyed Respondents by Economic Activities

The distribution of respondents by economic activity is diverse, with a higher proportion of participants having their own business or entrepreneurship (35% EIP and 24% NON-EIP). A significant number of participants also have formal jobs with professional or technical roles (17.3% average). There is a representative group that is currently unemployed, with significantly more in the NON-EIP group.

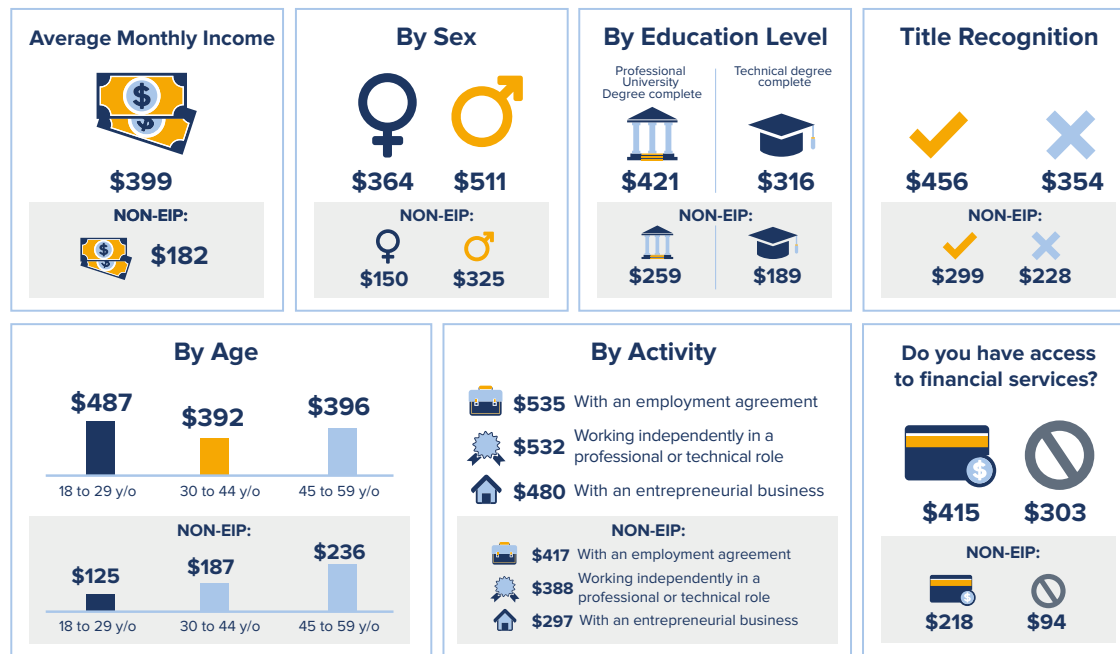
Graph 5: Percentage of the Population Surveyed and Economic Activity



5.2 IMPACT ANALYSIS

INCOME

IMPACT



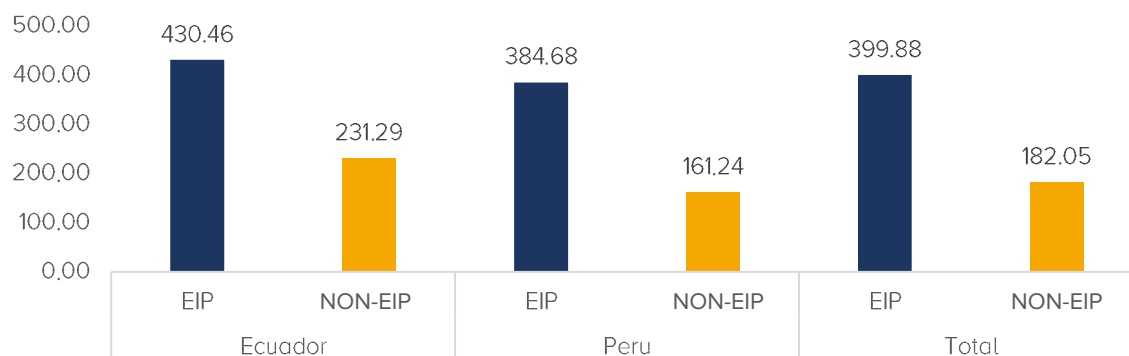
At this point, it is important to analyze the impact of some of EIP’s strategic actions on income in order to demonstrate the results as related to the economic conditions of the refugee and migrant population in the country as achieved through a technical, focused, and comprehensive intervention. This is done by performing a comparative analysis with a control group of participants, who have similar characteristics but are not participants in any EIP-type initiative, which aims to create favorable scenarios conducive to this population group’s socio-economic integration.

Individuals who have participated in EIP initiatives have double the income earned by those in the control group (NON-EIP). In addition, the income earned substantially exceeds USD \$280 in Peru, which is equivalent to the country’s current legal minimum wage. It is nearly USD \$460 in Ecuador, comparable to its current legal minimum wage.

In principle, then, we can conclude that a comprehensive technical intervention that includes psycho-emotional support (especially for survivors of gender-based violence [GBV]), ongoing support and training to generate or strengthen a livelihood (entrepreneurship or employment), and financial education and access to formal financial services, can be a suitable path for contributing to the refugee and migrant population’s integration into the host country’s society and economy.

DATA DETAILS

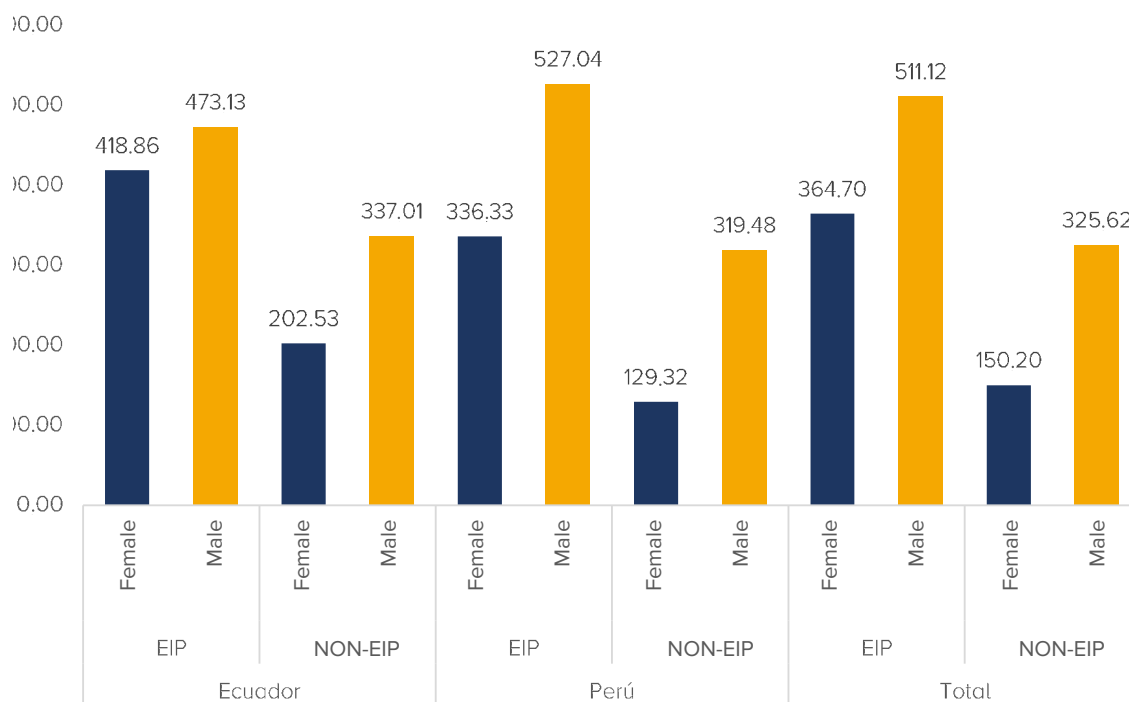
Graph 6: Average Monthly Income of the Surveyed Population (USD)



Both men and women in the EIP group have significantly higher incomes than their counterparts in the NON-EIP group, with this difference being more marked in Ecuador than in Peru. Generally, men in the EIP group earn up to 29% more than women; that difference is 54% in the NON-EIP group. With these results, we can see that although the gender gap remains, from an income point of view, when an intervention promotes opportunities for economic inclusion, the gender income gap can be narrowed substantially. EIP has technical support routes for professionals, technicians, and entrepreneurs which include strengthening their technical and soft skills, training, financial education, degree recognition, seed capital, and access to formal financial services, thereby providing comprehensive technical support that contributes to the economic inclusion of the EIP population. The NON-EIP population does not receive this support.

It is important to note that women in the EIP group targeted to participate in psycho-emotional support and life plan programs choose a sustainable livelihood (entrepreneurship or employment, depending on their vocation) to contribute to their independence or economic autonomy. In turn, this contributes to closing gender gaps in income. This situation also allows survivors of GBV to have greater tools to escape the cycle of violence and improve their general living conditions.

Graph 7: Average Monthly Income of the Surveyed Population by Sex (USD)

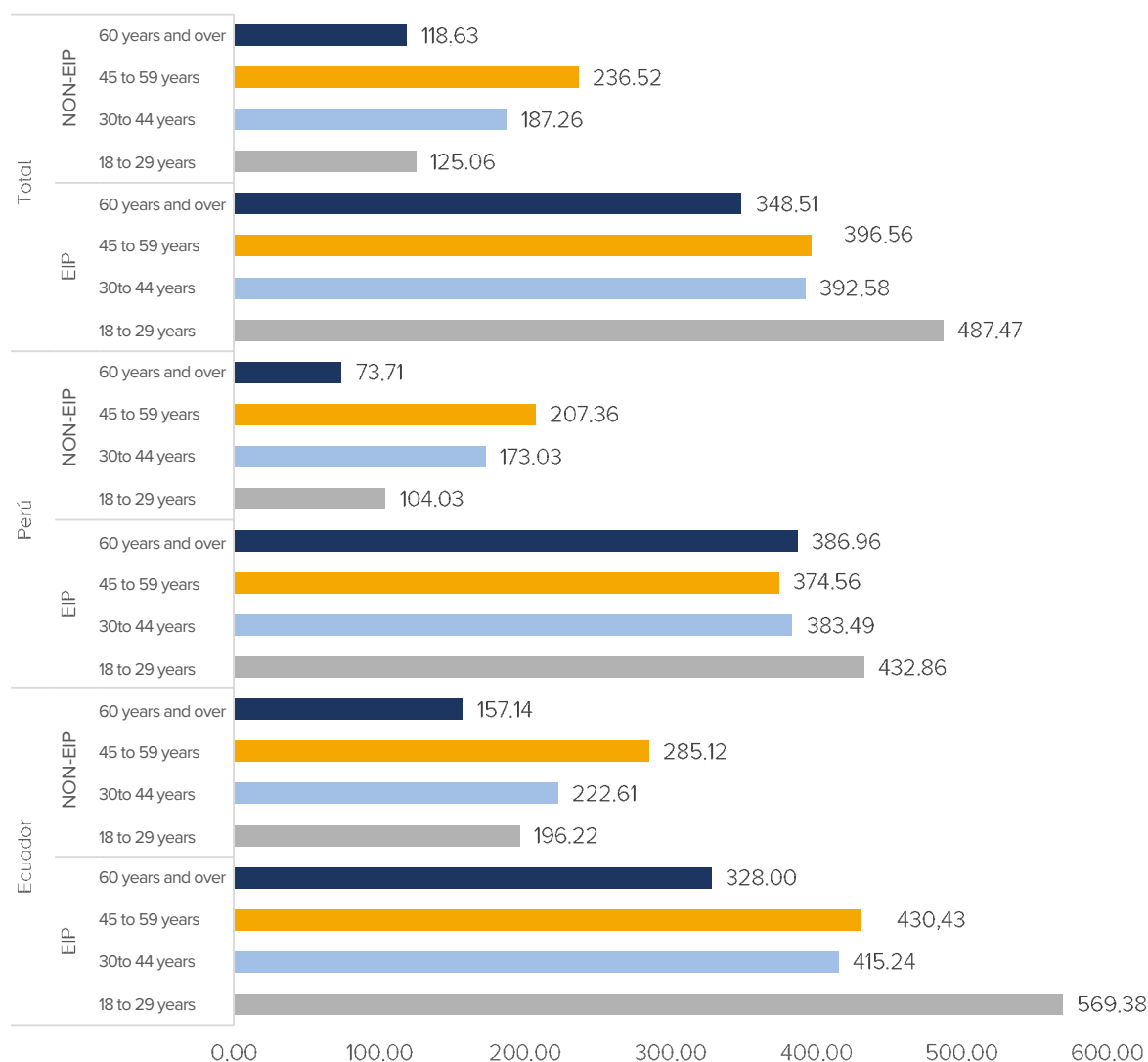


Overall, EIP participants have significantly higher average incomes than the NON-EIP group across all age groups and in both countries. For each age group analyzed, the following average monthly incomes are found for the EIP group: USD \$487 for 18 to 29 year olds, USD \$392 for 30 to 44 year olds, and USD \$396 for 45 to 59 year olds.

It is important to analyze the 18-29 age group in detail. This group has the highest average monthly income of all the age groups analyzed, including EIP and NON-EIP. This becomes more relevant when it is evident that this population group has more difficulty accessing employment or an above-average unemployment rate. According to the Central Reserve Bank of Peru, unemployment in this group is 14.3% in Peru compared to 5.4% overall. Individuals in this age group also encounter more significant barriers to accessing the formal financial system, especially financing opportunities.

Youth participation in EIP is based on a path that begins with building a life plan, reinforcing employment or entrepreneurship skills, and providing financial education and financial services suitable to their profile and vocation. This intends to provide sustainable tools for youth to achieve economic autonomy. It is important to note that this path has a cross-cutting digitalization element, important for the population group's profile, not only for education and training but also for easy access to formal financial services.

Graph 8: Average Monthly Income of the Surveyed Population by Age (USD)



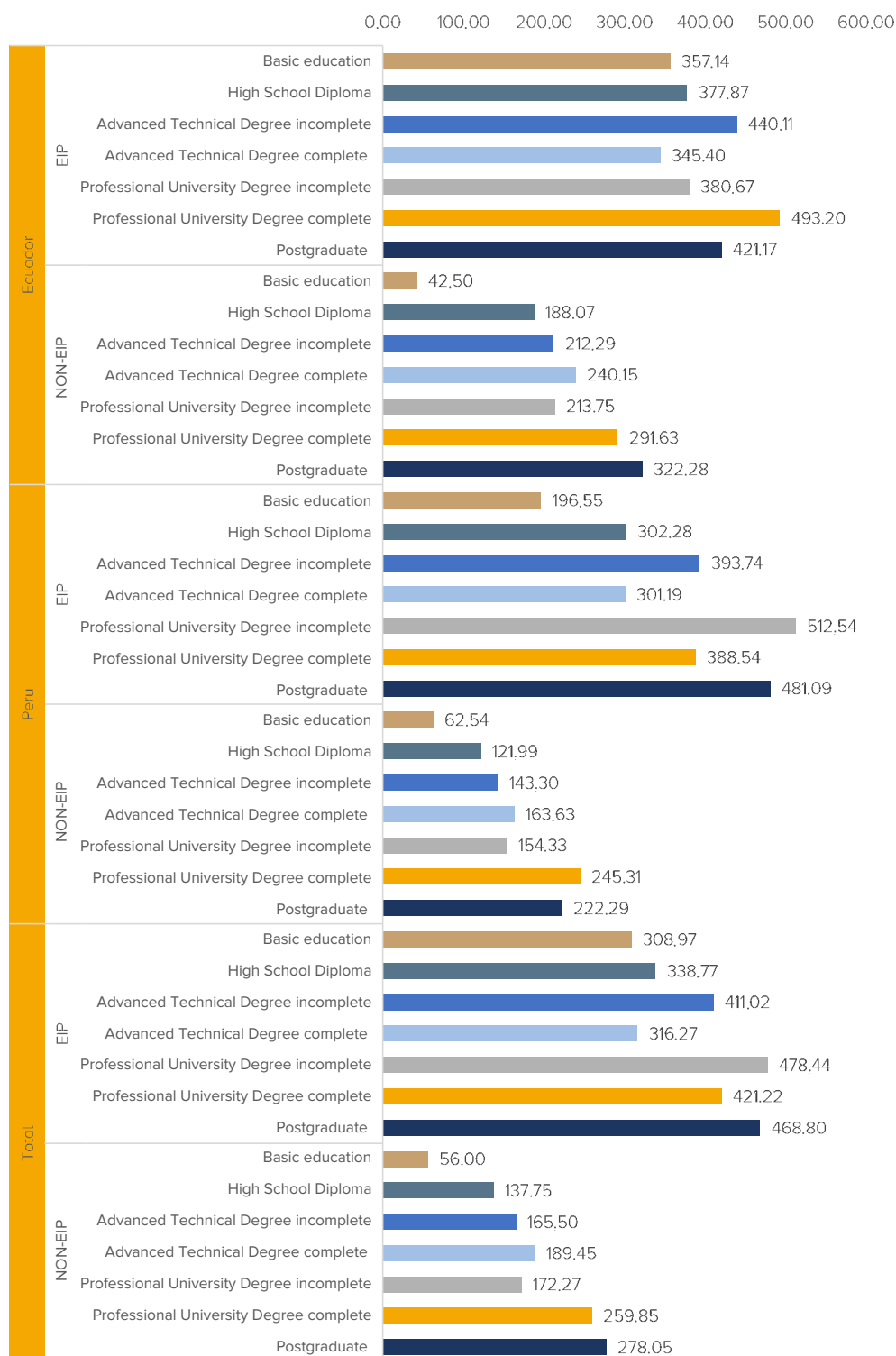
Overall, the EIP group has higher average incomes than the NON-EIP group at all education levels and in both countries, in which the wage gap between the groups remains constant across different education levels.

As shown above, the EIP group has a higher academic level than the NON-EIP group. Accordingly, people who have completed their higher education studies, both technical (16.1%) and university and postgraduate (59%), are more represented than in the NON-EIP group (13.5% and 29.8%, respectively), which poses a challenging scenario for migrants' labor integration in the host country. Despite this, the average monthly income of EIP university professionals is USD \$421 (38% higher than the NON-EIP group), and the average monthly income of individuals with technical degrees is USD \$316 (40% higher than the NON-EIP group). This is remarkable since these individuals face more significant labor insertion obstacles due to their professional demotivation, lack of knowledge about the professional and work environment, and the fact that their qualifications are not recognized in the host country.

In this sense, EIP plays an important role in offering a path forward for Venezuelans with professional or technical degrees. EIP's route includes a targeting process, ongoing support and technical guidance for the recognition of degrees, training to reinforce employability skills, and creating spaces with private companies to facilitate opportunities for labor market insertion.

At this point, performing a special analysis of the professional degree recognition process is pertinent. EIP has assisted 3,519 professionals and technicians in Peru and Ecuador to recognize or revalidate educational and professional credentials. This represents 81% of the total generated by all the Working Group for Refugees and Migrants (GTRM) actors. These individuals have an average monthly income of USD \$456, 35% higher than the NON-EIP group with recognized degrees and 50% higher than the NON-EIP group who do not yet have their degrees recognized in the host country. The above results allow us to conclude that a professional or technician with a recognized degree and receiving technical assistance to achieve or improve their labor market insertion has a better chance of integrating into the host country.

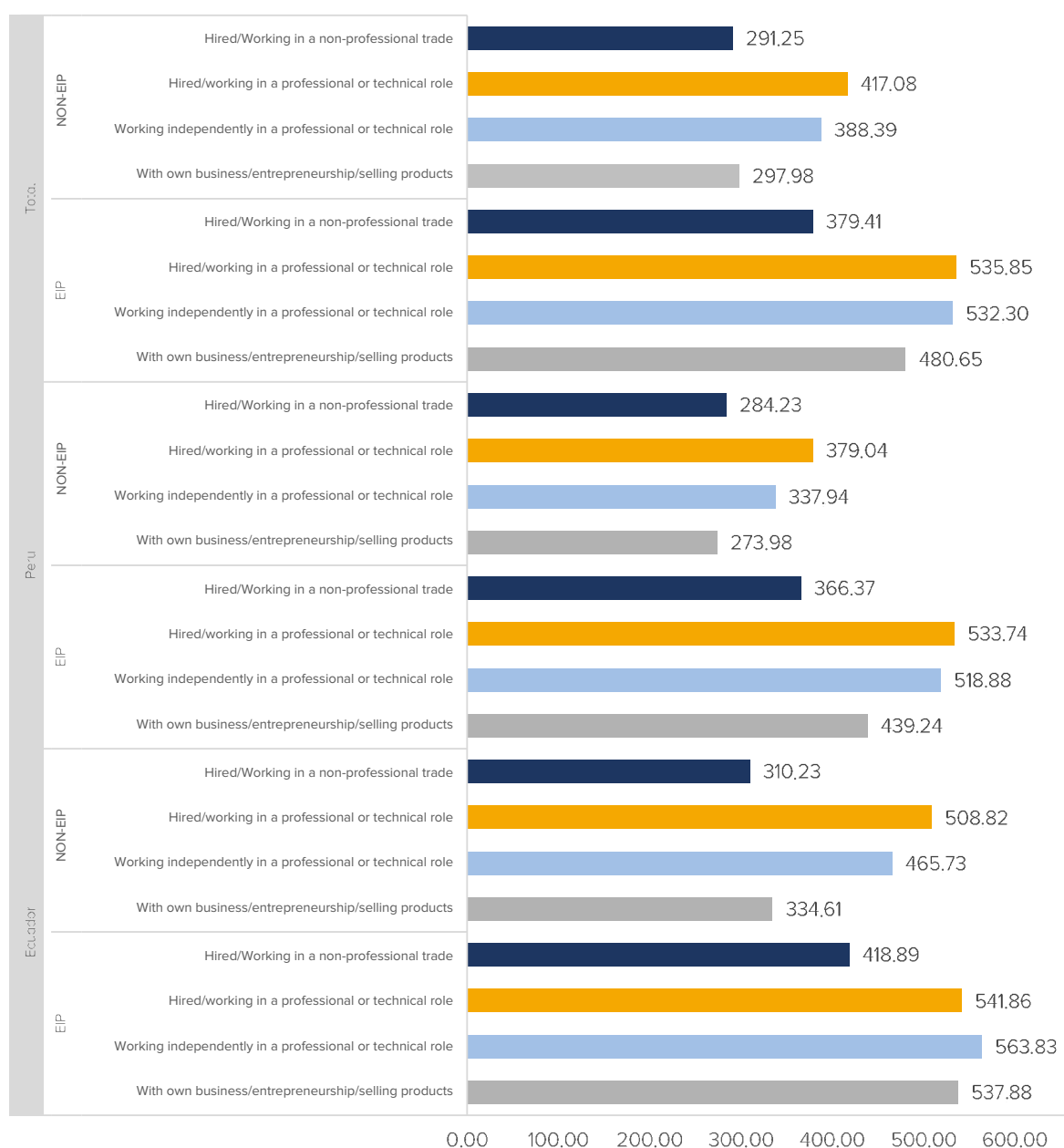
Graph 9: Average Monthly Income of the Surveyed Population by Education Level (USD)



The EIP group has higher average incomes than the NON-EIP group in Peru and Ecuador. This demonstrates that the EIP group has access to better job opportunities or better-paid jobs. Overall, people working in professional or technical roles, either as employees or independently, have the highest average income, in contrast with individuals hired/working in a non-professional trade role.

The preceding results may also be closely related to the fact that the EIP group has opportunities for ongoing support, training, access to formal financing, and virtual and in-person opportunities for connecting supply and demand, both labor market supply and demand and supply and demand of goods and services, in the case of entrepreneurial businesses started by Venezuelans in the host country.

Graph 10: Average Monthly Income of the Surveyed Population by Employment Activity (USD)

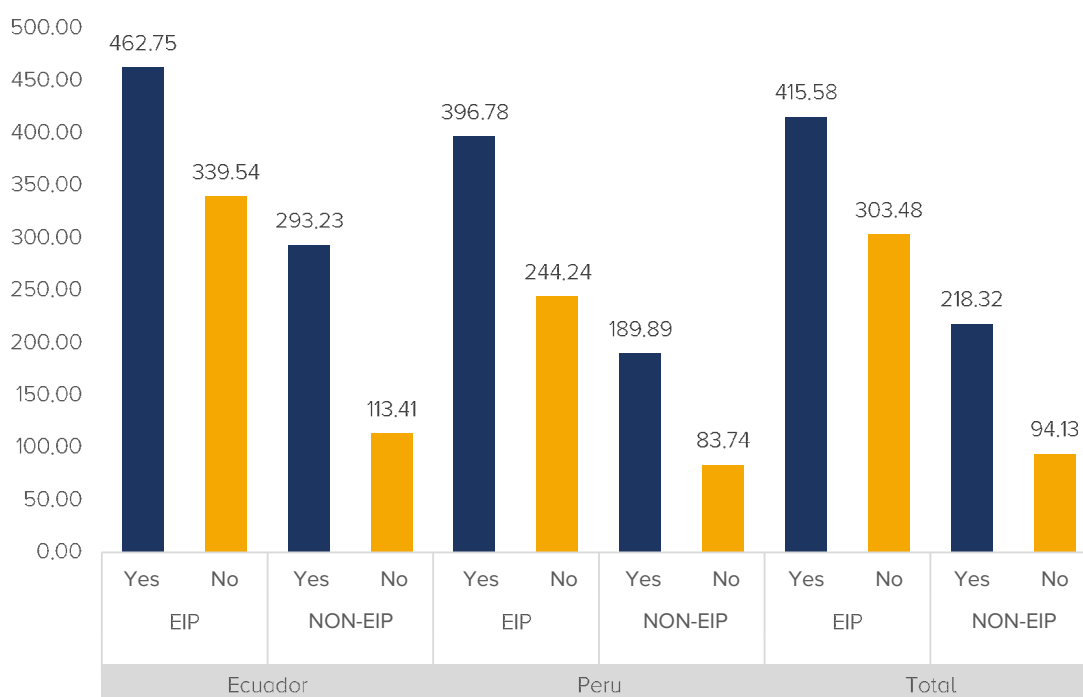


It is worth noting that participants who have access to formal financial products or services have higher average incomes than those without, regardless of the group or country. This suggests a positive relationship between access to formal financial services and income levels. The EIP group's average income is higher than the NON-EIP group's average income in all categories, allowing us to conclude there are bigger and better economic opportunities for developing businesses or accessing better-paid jobs.

EIP and participating financial institutions have achieved the financial education and inclusion of more than 22,000 people in Ecuador and Peru, representing 82% of what all the GTRM actors have reported. In addition, EIP and financial entity partners have issued 16,207 loans to Venezuelans valued at more than USD \$18 million. At this juncture, it is vital to acknowledge the combined work of EIP with financial institutions to improve their policies, processes, products, and channels for facilitating migrants' and refugees' access to solutions such as savings accounts, productive and consumer loans, payment methods, and personal, family, and business insurance.

Finally, it is important to note that access to formal financial services provides a strong sustainability component to economic inclusion initiatives or programs. It minimizes the dependence of grantees and allows migrant professionals or entrepreneurs to compete equally in the host country's economy.

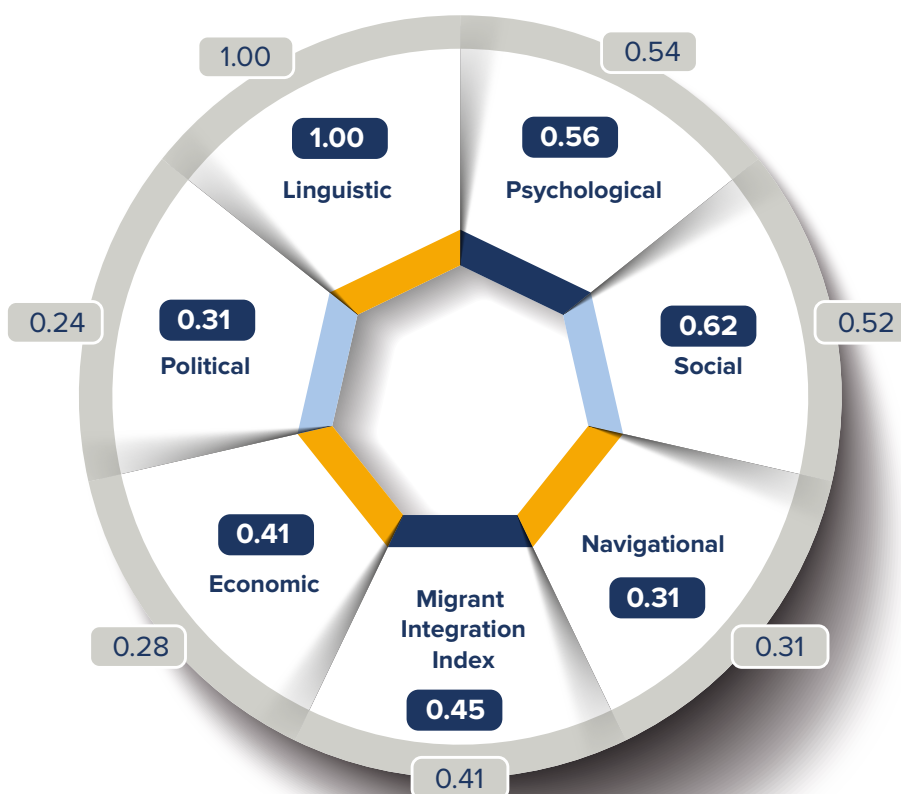
Graph 11: Average Monthly Income of the Surveyed Population by Access to Financial System (USD)



5.3 INTEGRATION SCORES BY DIMENSION

The IPL Integration Index provides a valuable tool for understanding migrant integration beyond a simple aggregate score. Unlike other indicators focusing on a single integration aspect, the IPL allows researchers to disaggregate the phenomenon into various dimensions, providing a more detailed and nuanced view of the migrant experience.

INTEGRATION INDEX VS INTEGRATION DIMENSIONS



INTEGRATION INDEX: 0 a 1
The closer the index is to 1 the higher the level of integration

EIP DATA
NON-EIP DATA

(*) The linguistic dimension received the maximum integration score of 1 since all interviewees are native Spanish speakers.

(**) If we apply the dimension averages to calculate the EIP and NON-EIP indexes, we would have 0.54 and 0.48, respectively.

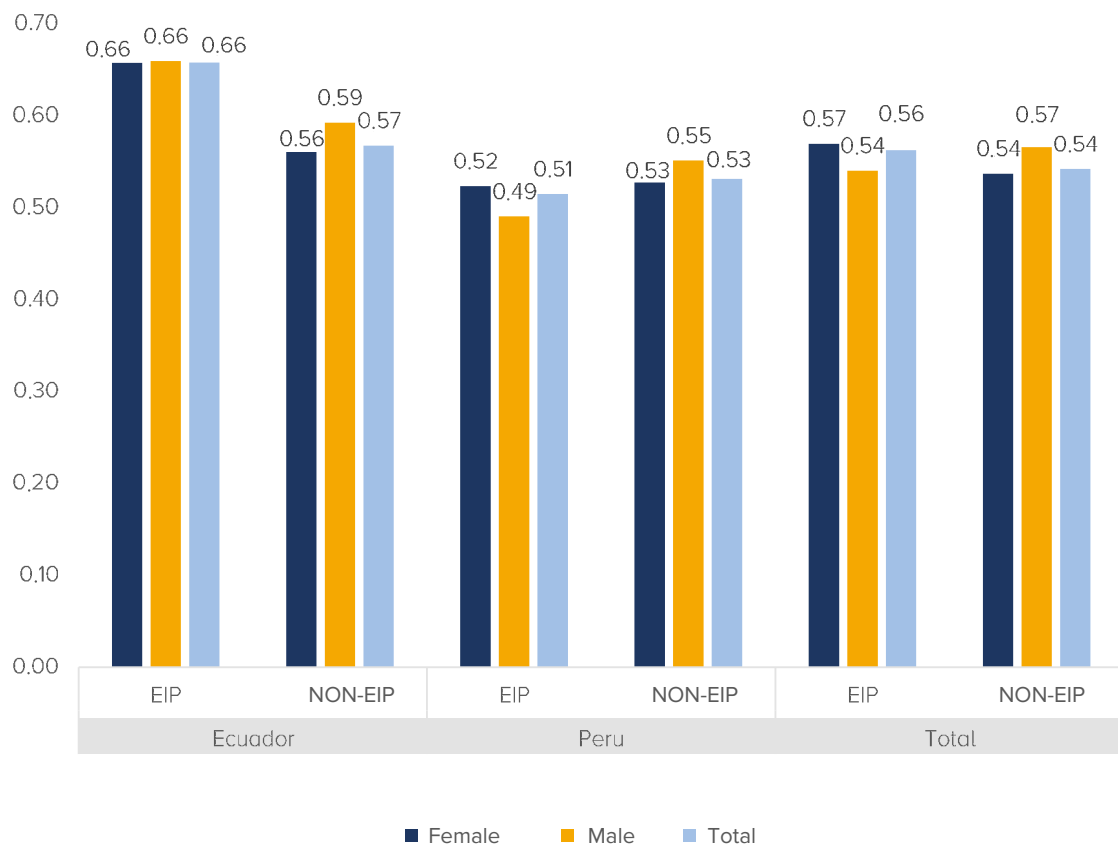
The overall integration score is 0.45 for the EIP group and 0.41 for the NON-EIP group. The EIP group scores highest in the social dimension at 0.62, followed by the psychological dimension at 0.56, then 0.41 for the economic dimension, with the navigational dimension being the lowest at 0.31. The NON-EIP group scores highest in the psychological dimension at 0.54, while the political dimension is the lowest at 0.24. At the country level, Ecuador shows 0.48 as a general index for the EIP group and 0.42 for the NON-EIP group, and Peru shows 0.44 and 0.40, respectively.

PSYCHOLOGICAL DIMENSION SCORES

EIP : 0.56

NON-EIP : 0.54

Graph 12: Psychological Dimension Scores



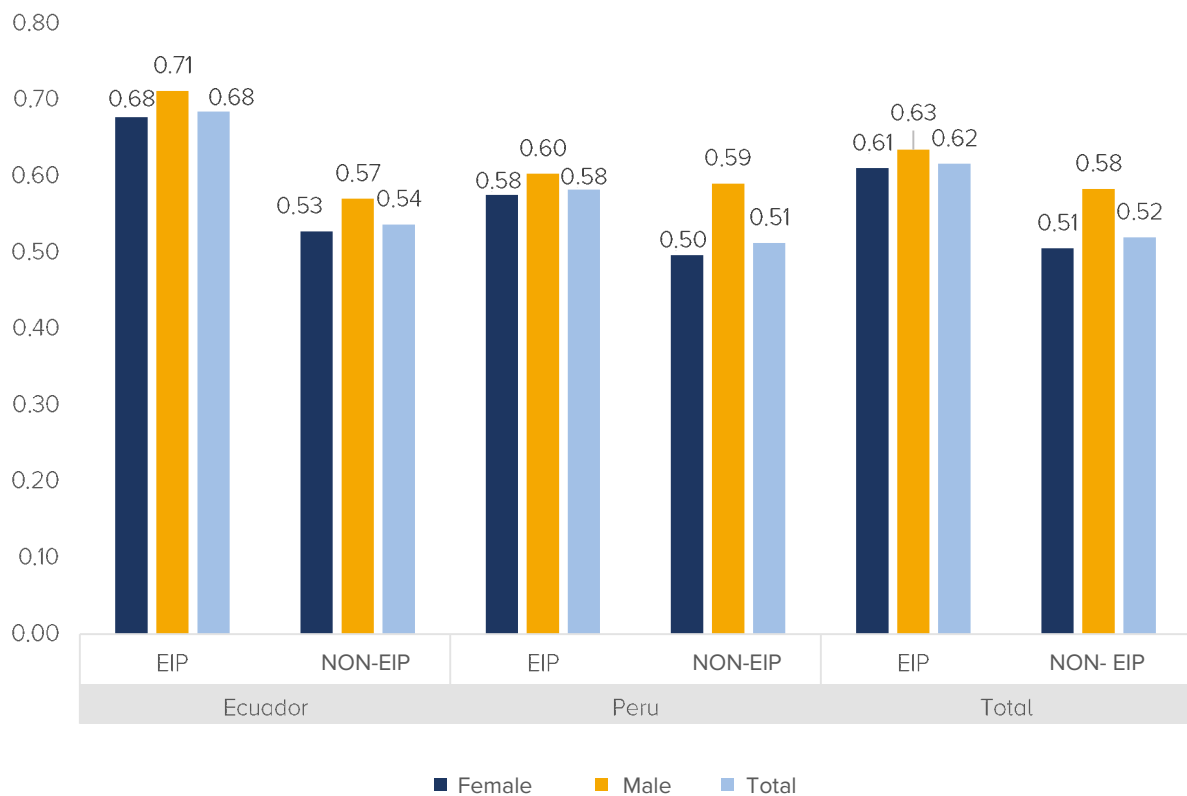
The EIP and NON-EIP scores for this dimension in Ecuador and Peru are within similar ranges. Likewise, men and women show similar scores, suggesting that men and women experience similar integration processes, at least in psychological terms. The overall average psychological scores at the group level are 0.56 for the EIP group and 0.54 for the NON-EIP group. This finding is corroborated by the fact that 45% of respondents expressed their intention to stay in the country, and 26% did not feel like strangers in the host country.

SOCIAL DIMENSION SCORES

EIP: 0.62

NON-EIP : 0.52

Graph 13: Social Dimension Scores



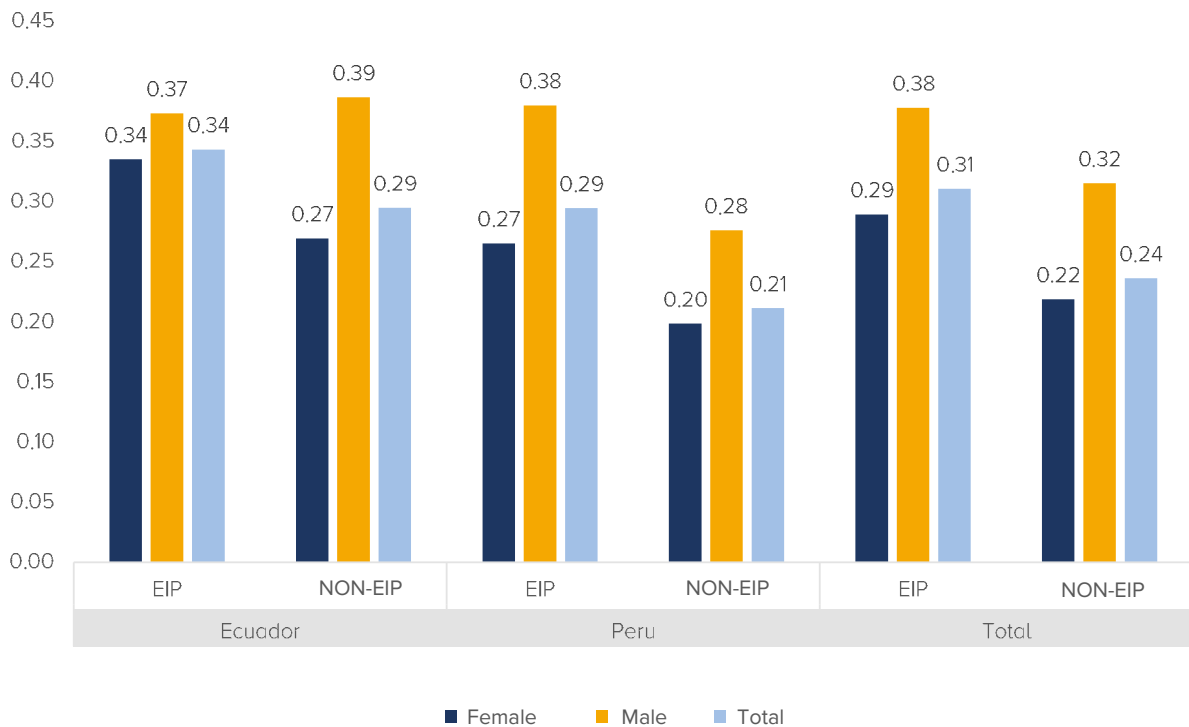
The overall social dimension score for the EIP group is 0.62, and 0.52 for the NON-EIP group, which are the second highest values among all dimensions and suggest social integration among migrants. This integration is manifested in the frequency of social interactions, such as conversations and activities shared with local populations. 66% of the respondents conversed via phone, online messaging applications such as WhatsApp, or text messages with at least three local citizens in the last month. 62% also had meals at least once a month with citizens of the host country who were not part of their family. On the other hand, when we compare sexes, women have lower social integration scores than men, even more so among the NON-EIP group.

POLITICAL DIMENSION SCORES

EIP: 0.31

NON-EIP : 0.24

Graph 14: Political Dimension Scores



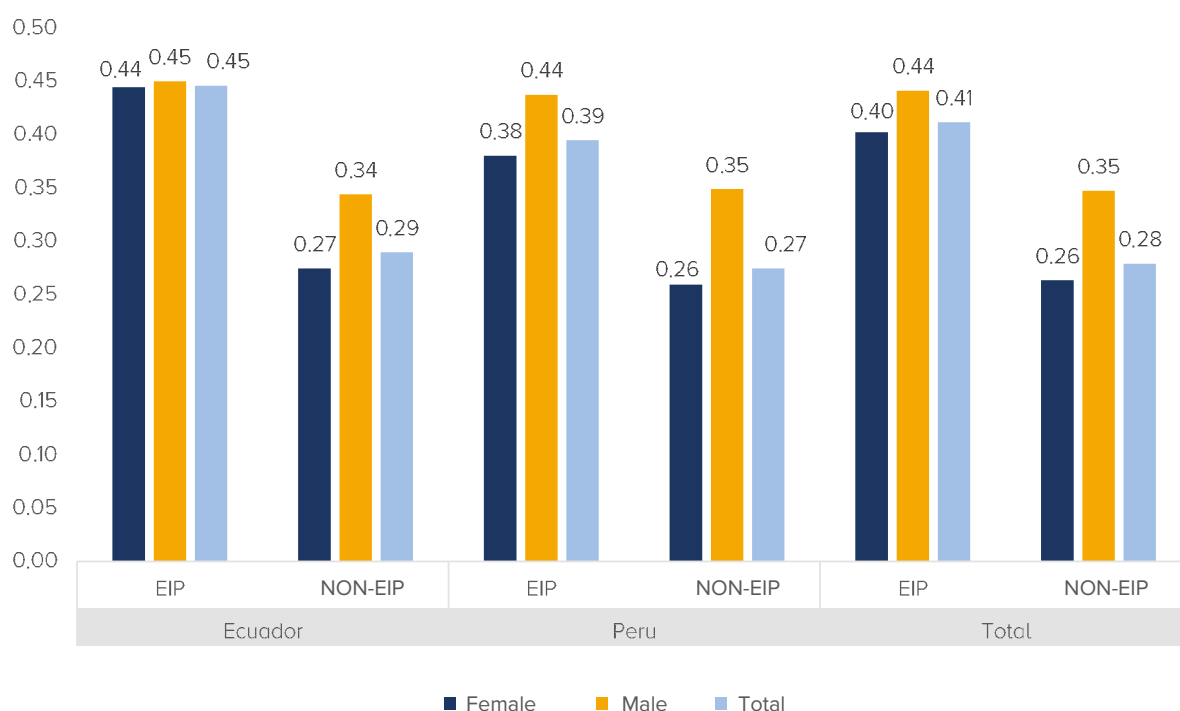
In the political dimension, the EIP group scored 0.31 compared to the NON-EIP group, which scored 0.24. Males are more integrated in this dimension in both groups. However, both males and females in the EIP group show higher scores at the group level. There may be less understanding of the important political issues facing the host country and less engagement in terms of discussion and political action (61% do not understand the issues very well). 96% of respondents did not make a political statement in a public setting or online about local politics.

ECONOMIC DIMENSION SCORES

EIP: 0.41

NON-EIP : 0.28

Graph 15: Economic Dimension Scores



The economic dimension shows the most significant gap among all the dimensions between the scores reached by the EIP and NON-EIP respondents, with a difference of up to 0.13. The overall score reached by the EIP group is 0.41 compared to the NON-EIP group score of 0.29. Measurement of this dimension considers income, employment, satisfaction with employment situation, and the ability to handle different levels of unexpected expenses. Based on questions concerning the respondents' average monthly income, EIP can calculate that the average monthly income for the EIP group is USD \$399.88, while for the NON-EIP group, it is USD \$182.05. Additionally, 58% of the EIP respondents make over USD \$300 monthly, while 24% exceed that same amount in the NON-EIP group. 73% of the EIP group have income or economic remunerations.

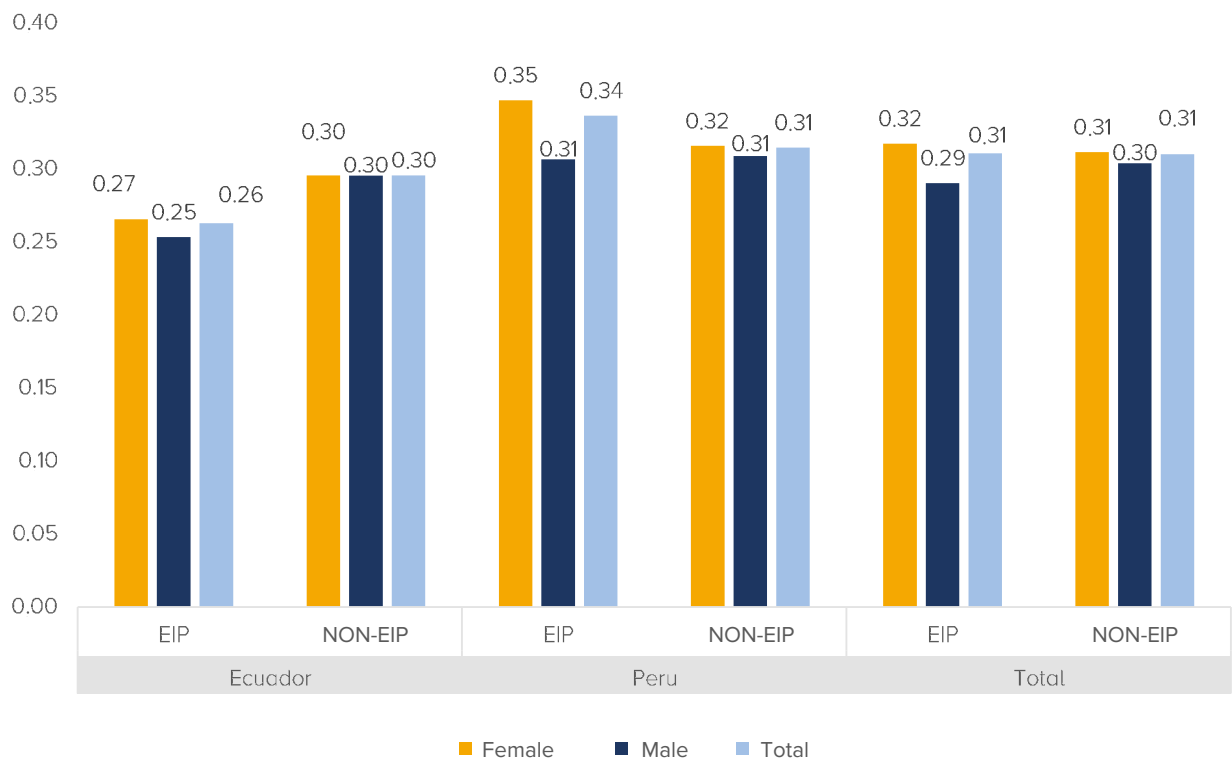
There are significant sex differences in this dimension; men's income is up to 29% higher at the EIP level. The NON-EIP gap is even wider, at 54%.

NAVIGATIONAL DIMENSION SCORES

EIP : 0.31

NON-EIP : 0.31

Graph 16: Navigational Dimension Scores



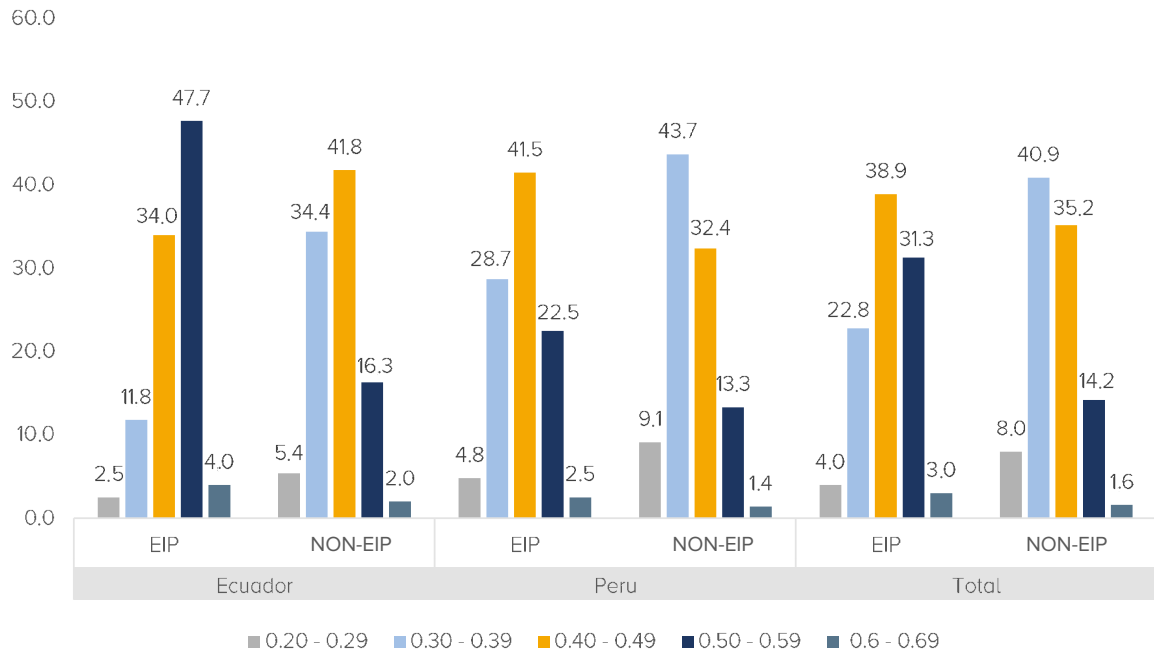
The overall navigational dimension score is 0.31 for both groups. These are the lowest values among the dimensions, indicating that respondents have difficulties managing their basic needs in the host country. 58% of those surveyed find it difficult to see a doctor, and 65% have problems obtaining legal advice.

5.4 MIGRANT INTEGRATION INDEX

Distribution of the IPL Index

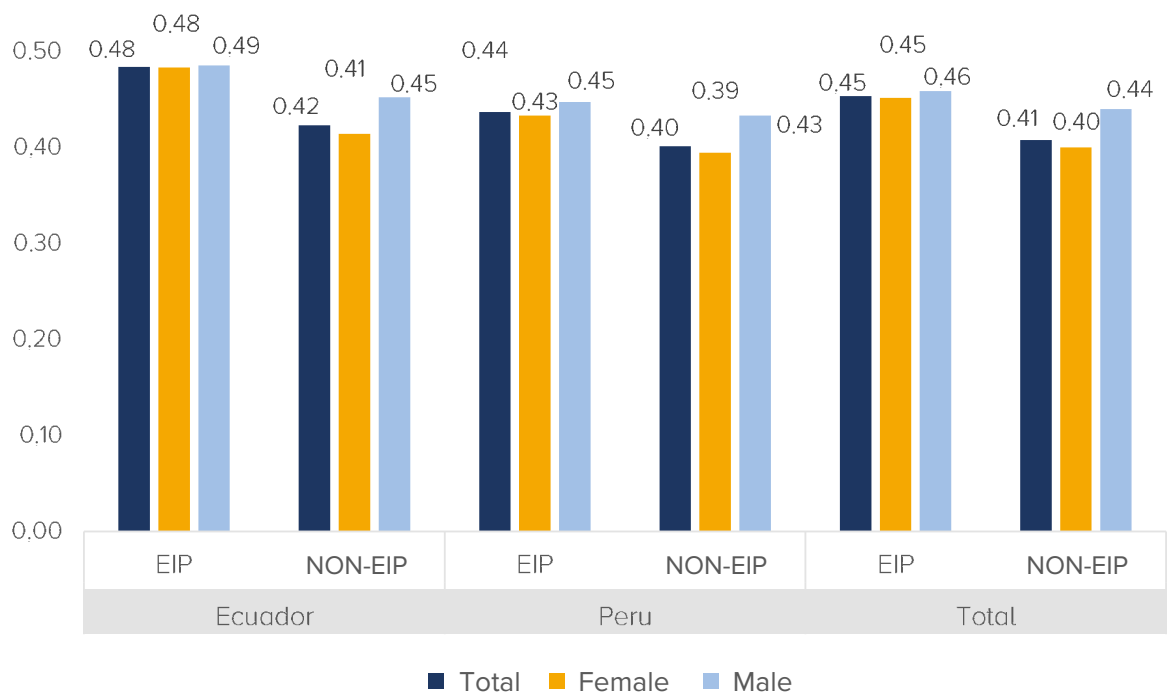
The IPL Integration Index distribution ranges between 0.40 and 0.59 (70%) among EIP respondents, with an average integration score of 0.45. Meanwhile, the index distribution range of the NON-EIP group is between 0.30 and 0.49 (76%), with an average integration score of 0.41. The higher the score, the better the respondent's integration.

Graph 17: EIP and NON-EIP Migrant Index



General Description of the Integration Scores

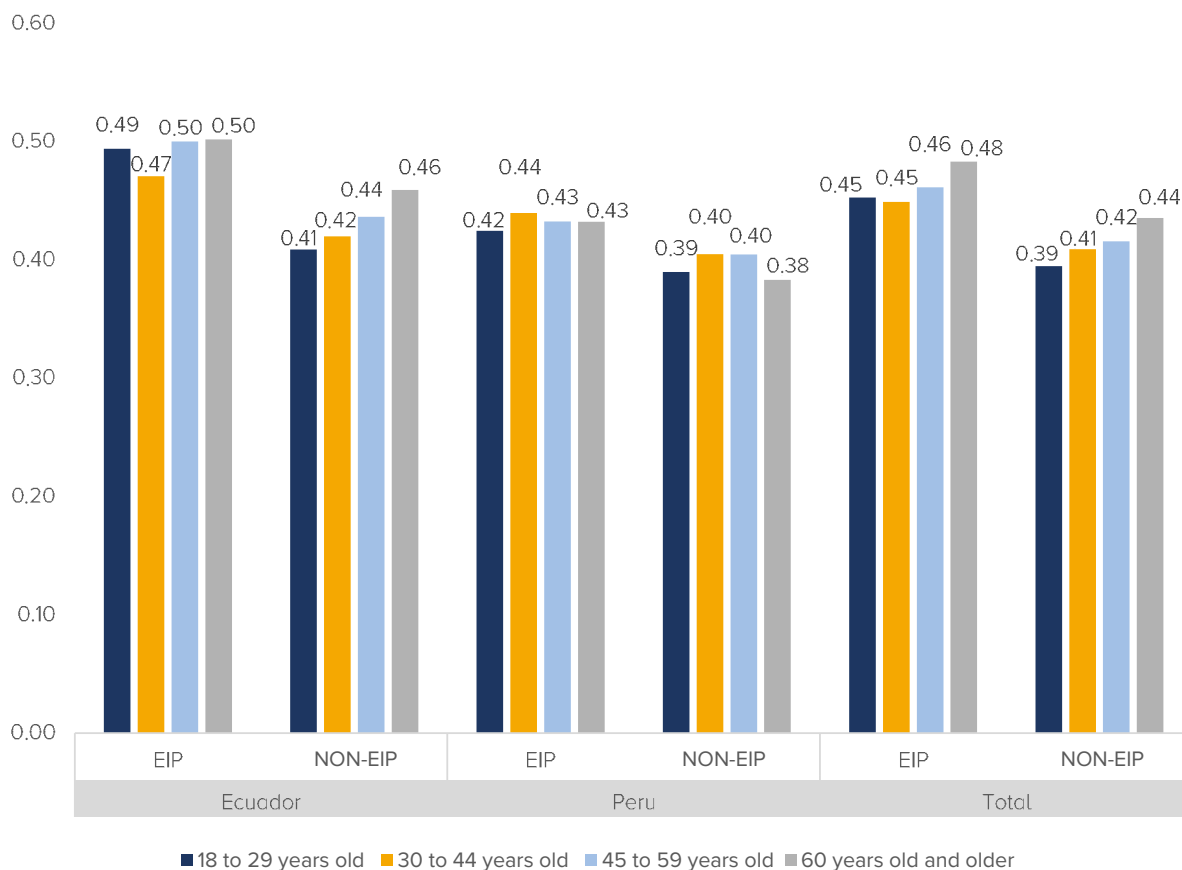
Graph 18: Integration Score by Sex



The scores follow a normal distribution of 0 to 1: the higher the score, the better the integration.

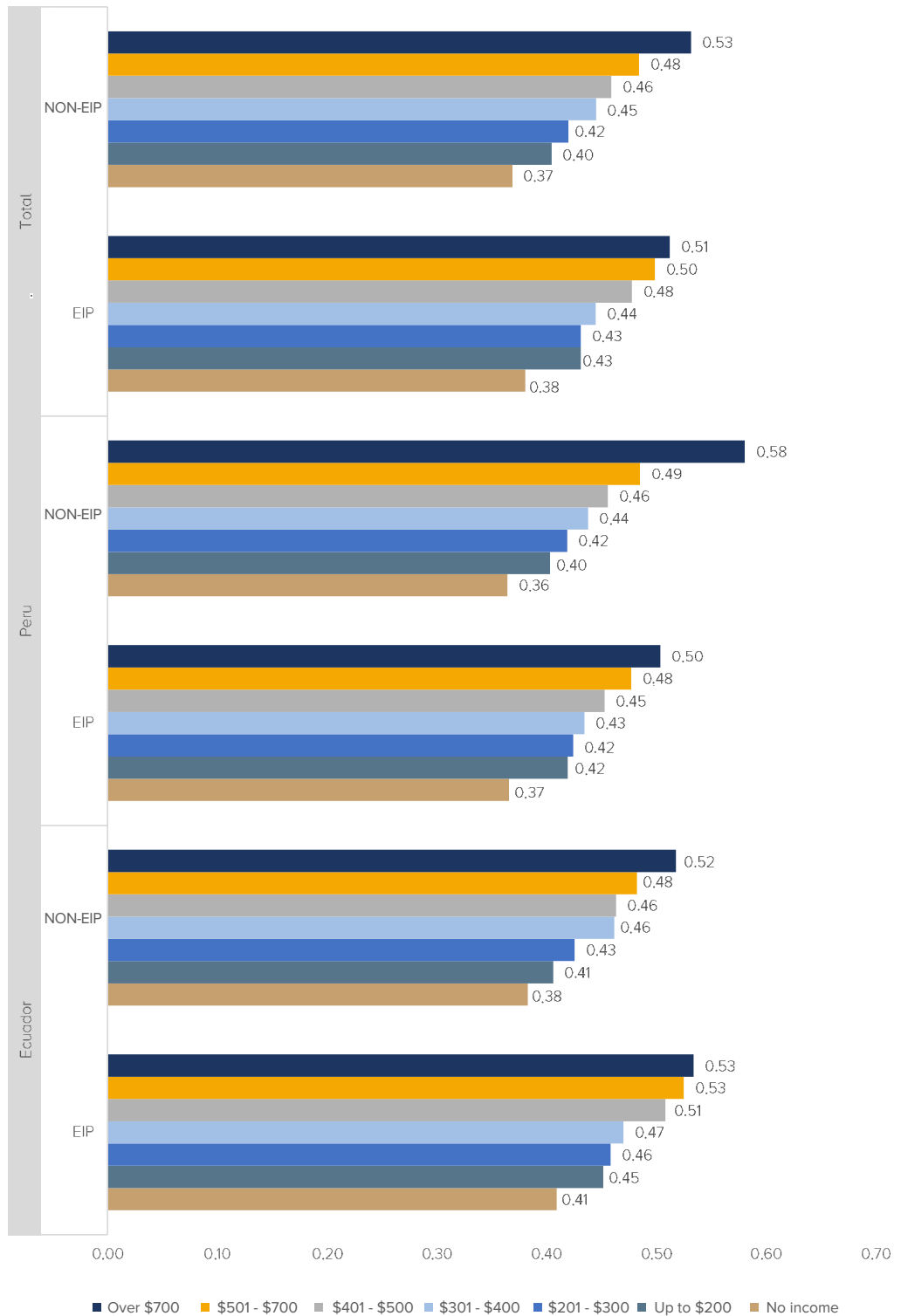
Considering the study was conducted with an overall participation rate of 79% women and 21% men, the analysis by sex reveals inequalities in the integration level among men and women in the EIP Venezuelan migrant and refugee population. However, the gap is even wider in the NON-EIP group. The proportion of men and women is similar for both the EIP and NON-EIP groups, which is similar to the project's reality.

Graph 19: Integration Score by Age



Approximately 59.5% of the respondents fall in the 30 to 44 age group, followed by the 45 to 59 age group with 23%. These are the most representative groups within the age ranges. At the age group level, the EIP group results reflect that the 45 to 59 and 60+ groups have a greater integration level (0.46 and 0.48 points, respectively). This trend is maintained in the NON-EIP group, even though the scores are lower (0.42 and 0.44 points, respectively). At the EIP level, the 30 to 44 and 18 to 29 age groups participating in EIP show slightly lower integration values.

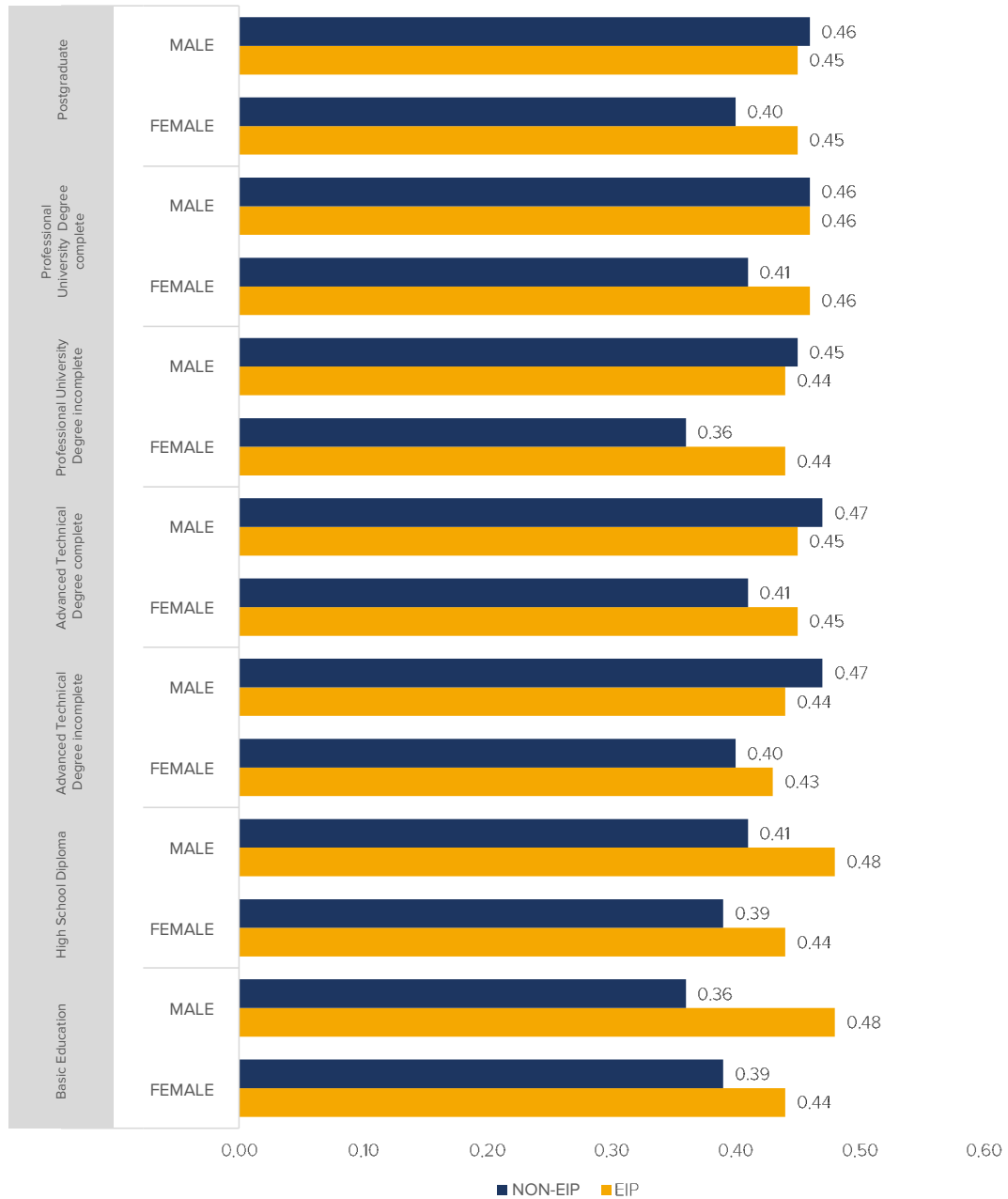
Graph 20: Integration Score by Income Level (USD)



The average income of the EIP group is USD \$430 and the average income of the NON-EIP group is USD \$231. Analysis by income levels reveals a proportional relationship between both groups' income level and integration level, although it is always higher in the EIP group. The highest income levels (over \$700 and \$501-\$700) have a higher overall integration level, followed by the intermediate income levels (\$401-\$500, \$301-\$400, and \$201-\$300). The lowest income levels (up to USD \$200 and no income) have a lower integration level.

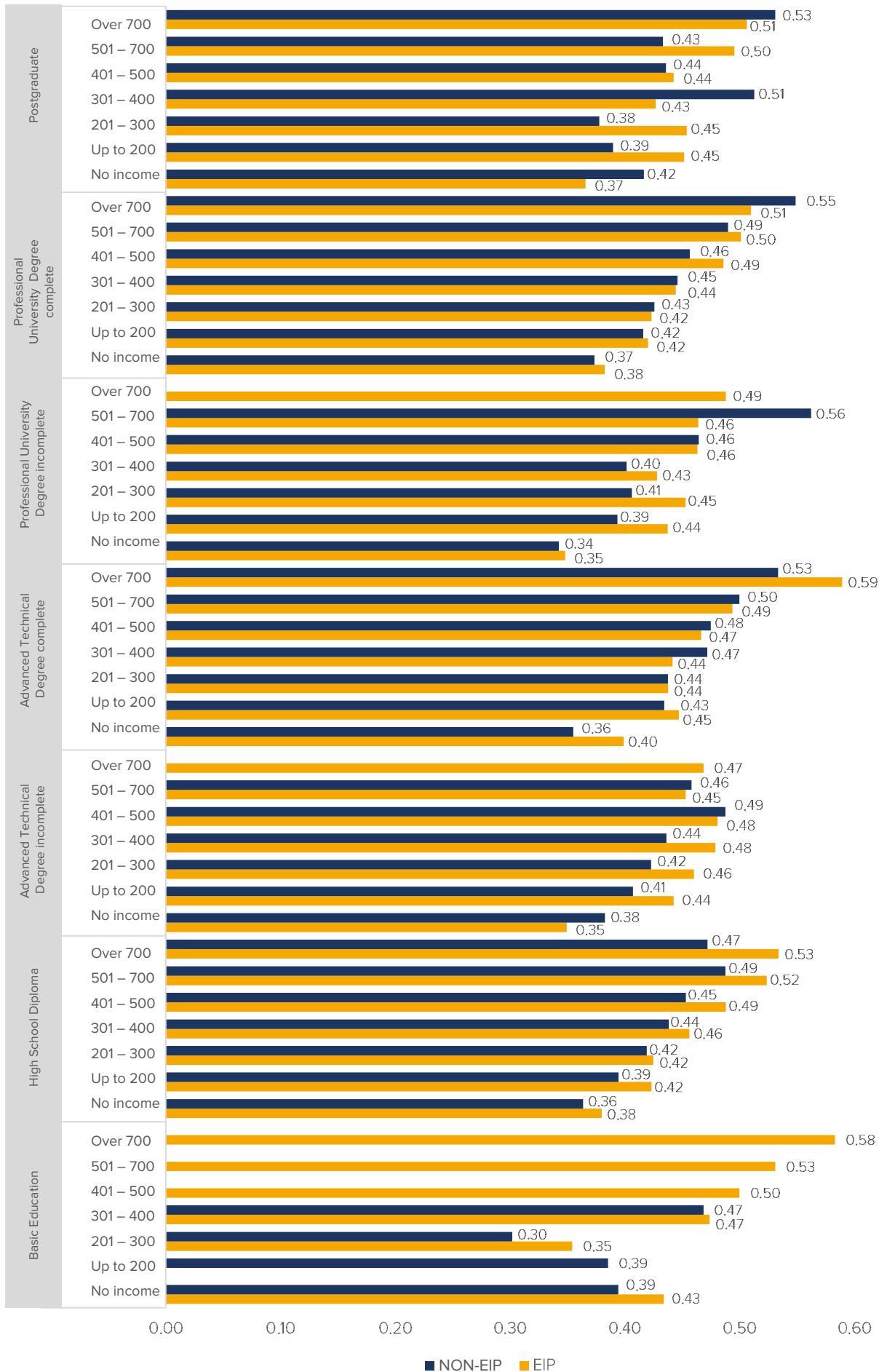
Education Level

Graph 21: Integration Score by Education Level and Sex



Of those interviewed, 75% of the EIP group and 43% of the NON-EIP group have completed technical/university studies. Men tend to have slightly higher integration scores than women at all education levels. As education level increases, the integration score also tends to increase for both men and women. This suggests that a higher education level is related to better integration, perhaps due to better employment and social opportunities. There are some exceptions to this trend, however, as in the case of women with a basic education, their integration score is slightly higher than that of men with the same education level.

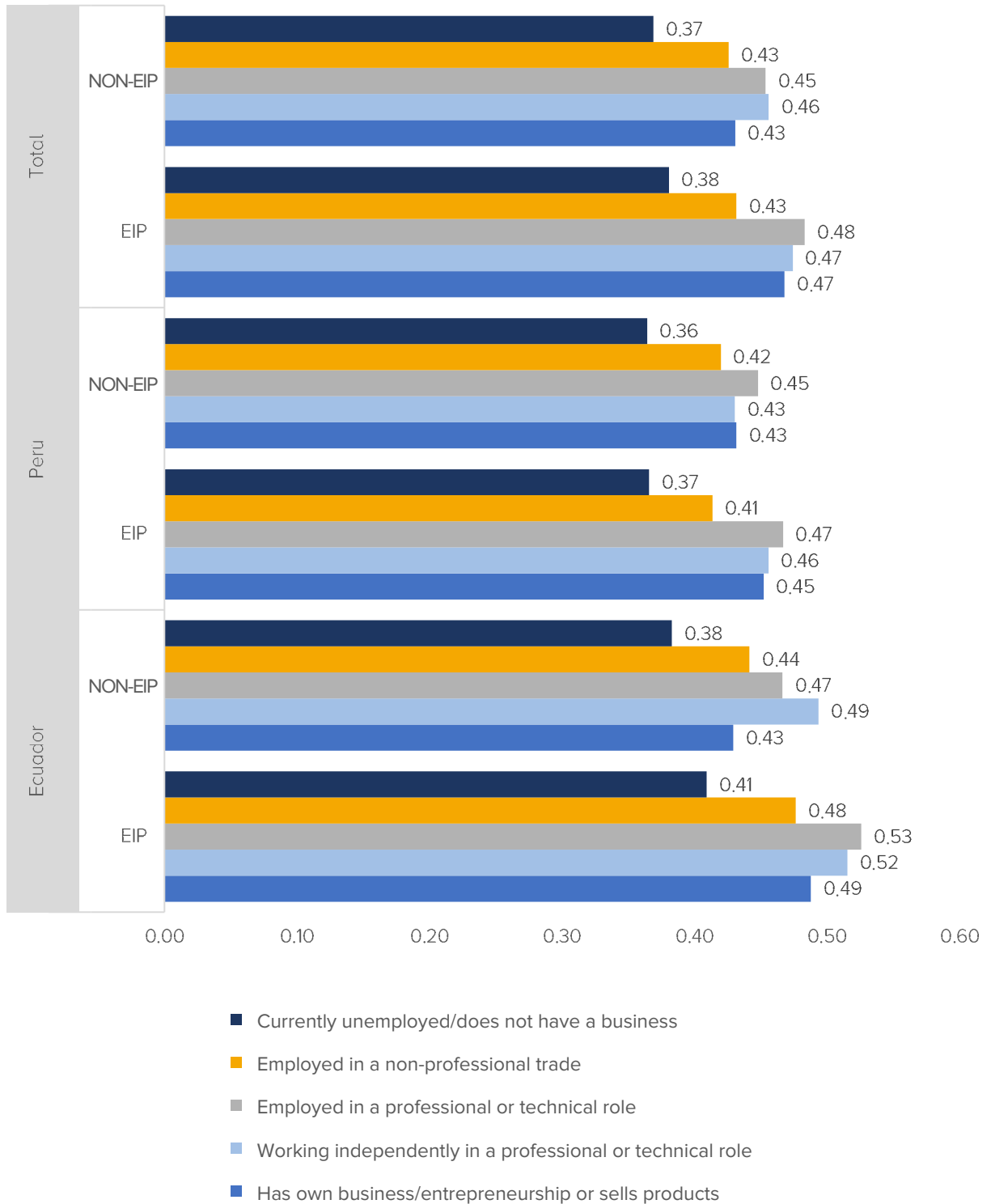
Graph 22: Integration Score by Education and Income Level (USD)



Although the correlation between education level, income, and the integration score is positive, it is important to note that income is an integration index component. Therefore, this relationship does not necessarily imply direct causality. Even so, those with a higher education level and better incomes tend to have higher scores, which suggests better integration opportunities. Other factors (discrimination, racism, and labor exploitation, among others) not considered in the index could significantly influence the results.

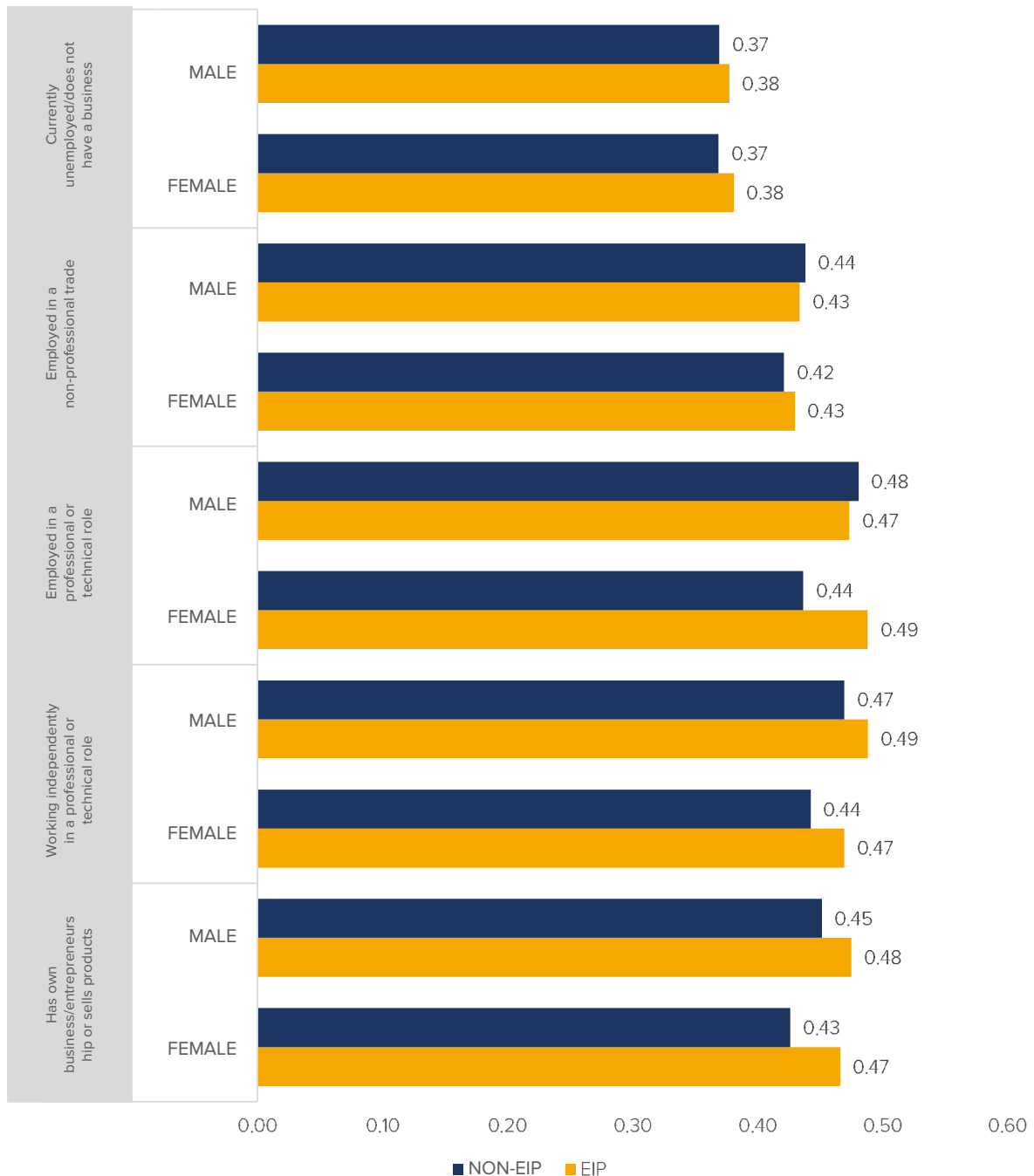
Employment

Graph 23: Integration Score by Employment



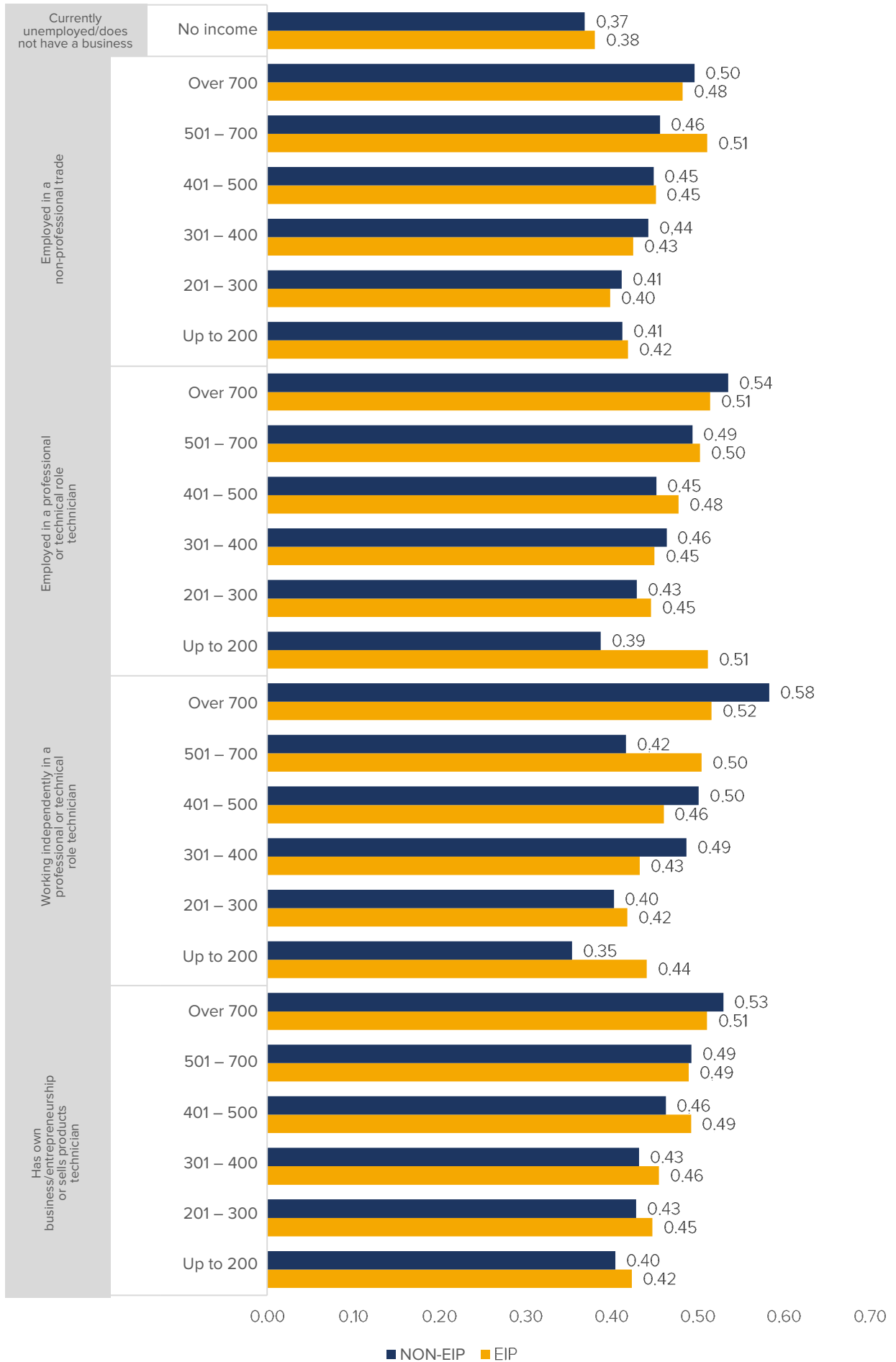
For 29% of respondents, their business is their primary economic activity; 17% have some professional activity or job through employment and 5% work independently in their professional or technical field. According to the graph, there is a general upward trend in the integration score as the professionalization level of the labor activity increases. In other words, people with professional or technical employment or those who have their own businesses tend to have higher scores than those who do not work or practice a non-professional trade.

Graph 24: Integration Score by Employment and Sex



Labor integration of migrants shows variations depending on employment activity and sex, with the EIP group being more integrated in all activities. Women who participate more in independent professional or technical activities and those employed in professional or technical roles have achieved better integration. In the case of men, those employed in a non-professional trade have achieved better integration in both the EIP and NON-EIP groups.

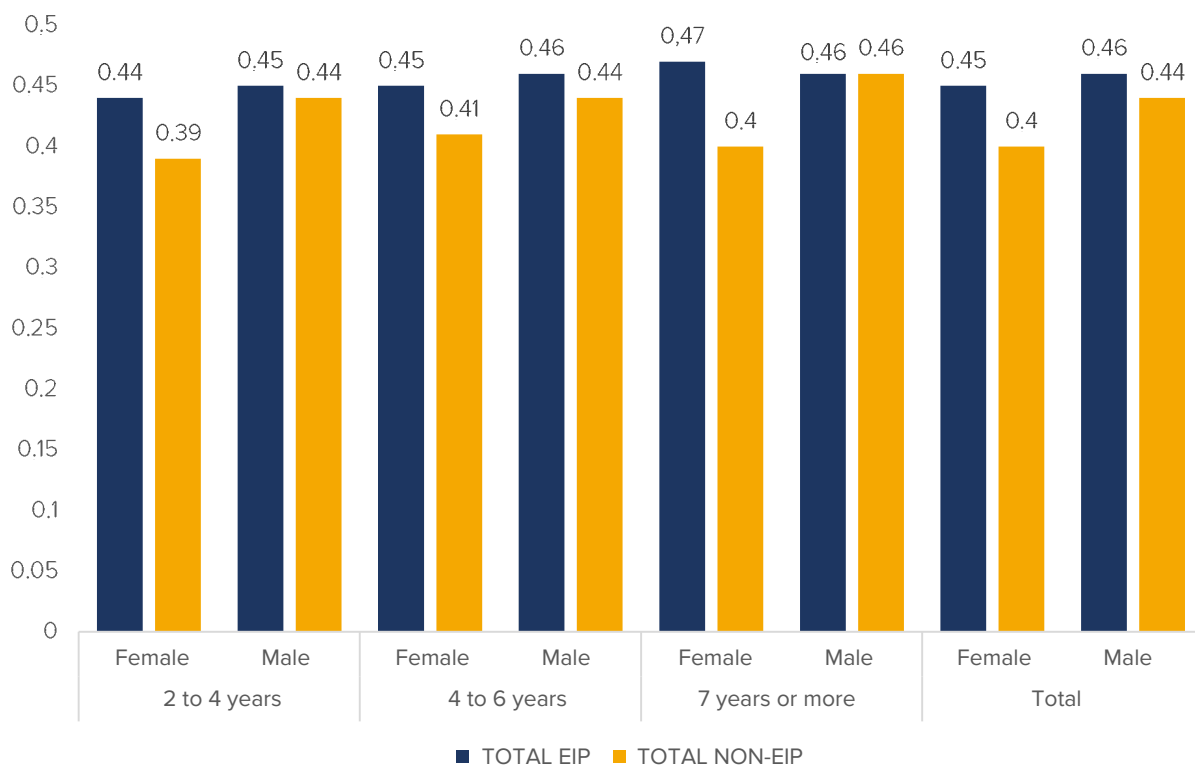
Graph 25: Integration Score by Employment and Income



69% of respondents make an income from their activity. By analyzing the graph, we can see that integration varies depending on the type of activity and the income earned, and the EIP group again shows the highest scores. The labor activities with the highest integration scores are those requiring more training and qualification, while the labor activities with the lowest integration scores do not require training or qualification. The data shows that the score tends to increase as income increases. This is especially evident for those with their own business or entrepreneurship, those who work independently in professional or technical roles, and those who are employed in professional or technical roles.

Length of Stay

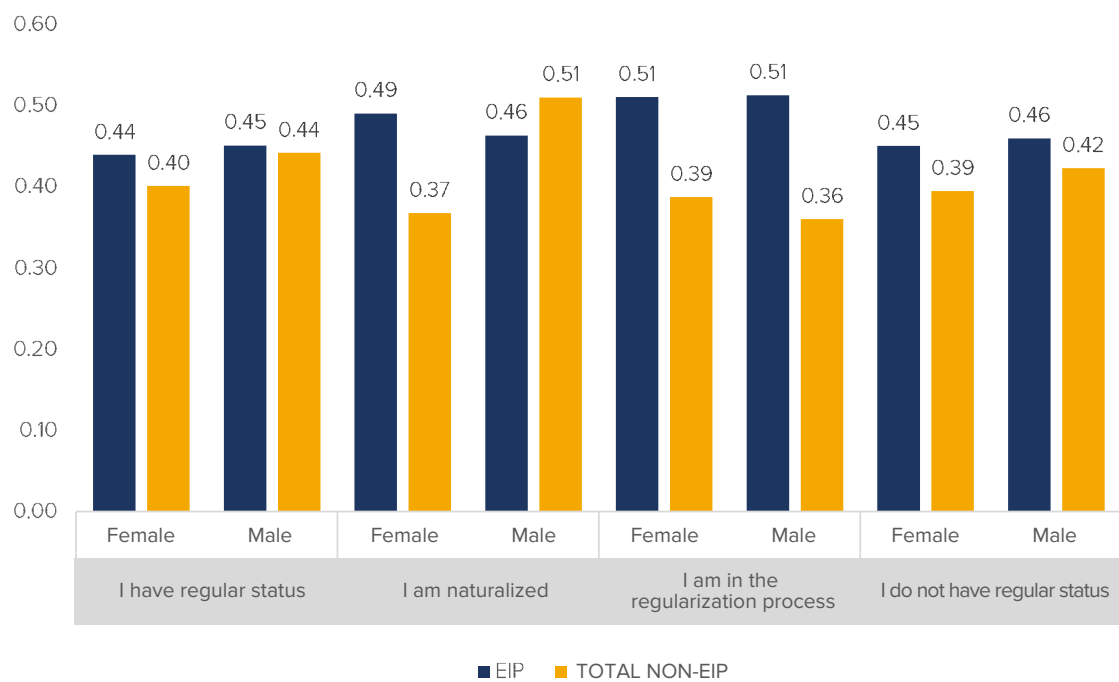
Graph 26: Integration Score by Length of Stay and Sex



70% of the respondents have been in the host country between four and six years, and 14% have been in the host country for more than seven years. The integration score increases as the length of stay increases for both sexes. Migrant women tend to have a slightly lower integration score than migrant men.

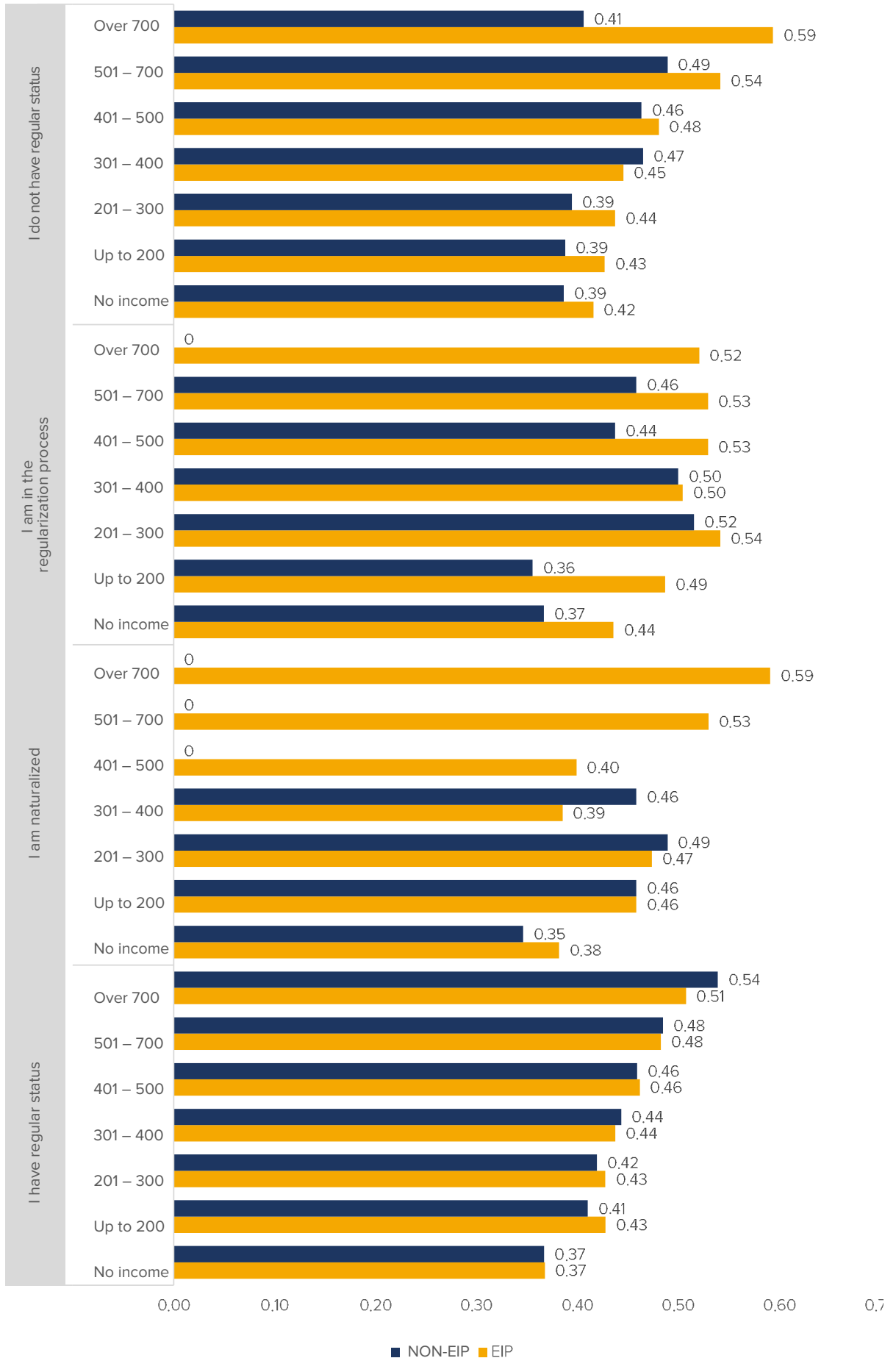
Migration Status

Graph 27: Integration Score by Migration Status and Sex



85% of the respondents say they have regular status, 19% are in the regularization process, 2% are naturalized, and 7% do not have regular status. Analyzing migrant integration, we see that it varies depending on migration status and sex. Migrant women tend to have lower integration scores than migrant men. Again, the EIP participants score higher in almost every category.

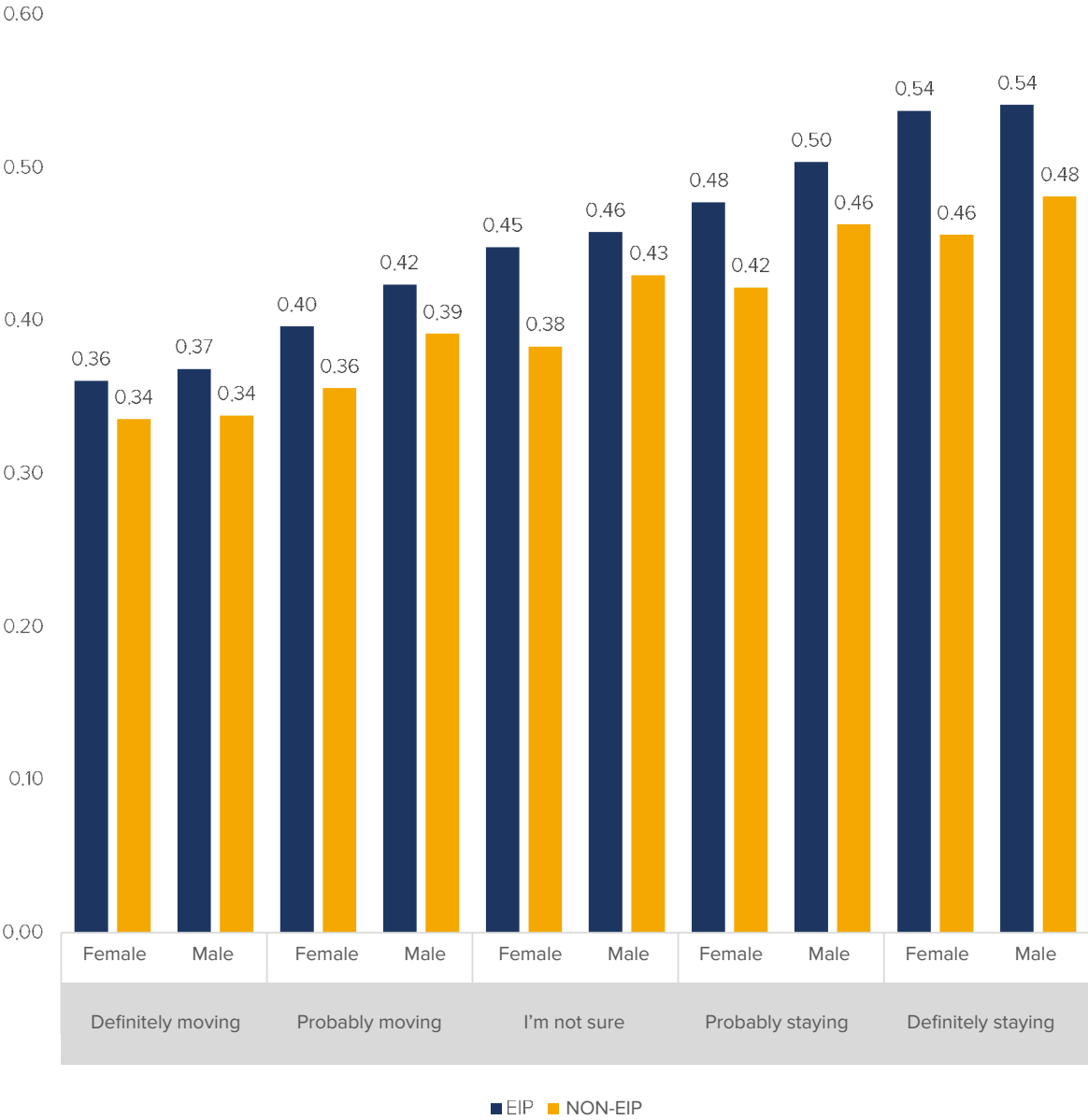
Graph 28: Integration Score by Migration Status and Income Levels (USD)



Higher-income respondents tend to have higher integration scores, regardless of their migration status or group (EIP/NON-EIP). This suggests that income is a determining factor in migrants' ability to achieve social integration. We can also observe that naturalized migrants at high-income levels have the highest integration scores, while migrants without regular status at low-income levels have the lowest scores. These include migrants with no income who have the lowest integration scores. This shows the importance of access to economic resources for social integration.

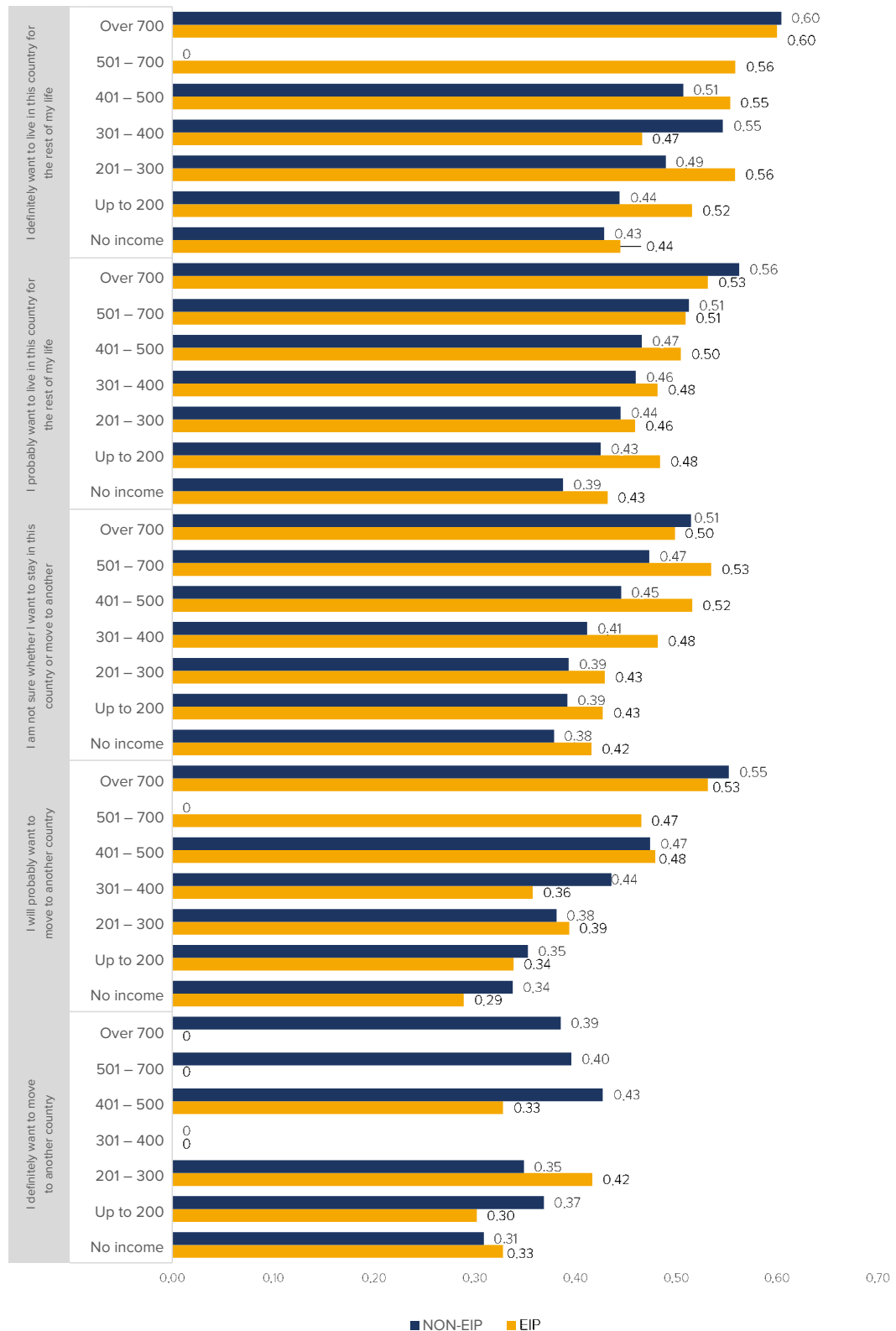
Migration Goals

Graph 29: Integration Score by Migration Goals and Sex



84% of respondents have lived in the host country for over four years; 97% of the EIP group have been in-country for this amount of time. For EIP respondents, the economic integration score increases accordingly with the length of stay. This may indicate that they have a greater probability of integrating during their stay. This relationship is also observed in the higher index scores of those who say they will “Probably stay” and those who will “Definitely stay.”

Graph 30: Integration Score by Migration Goals and Income Level (USD)



Overall, migrants who definitely or probably want to stay in the host country have a higher income level than migrants who definitely or probably want to move to another country. However, there are some exceptions to this overall trend. For example, migrants who intend to move to another country are likely to have a higher income level than migrants with no income. This could be because migrants who want to move to another country will likely have more education and skills than migrants with no income.



CHAPTER VI

CONCLUSIONS



The surveyed population for the EIP group is made up of participants in EIP activities implemented between October 2020 and March 2023. More than 80% of surveyed individuals have lived in the host country for more than four years. These data allow us to draw relevant conclusions about this population's experience, which will be detailed below:

- The analysis reveals significant salary disparities between women and men among both the EIP and non-EIP (control group) respondents. Male EIP participants earn an average monthly salary of \$511.12, compared to \$364.70 for female participants - a 28.65% difference. Among non-EIP respondents, this gap widens substantially, with men reporting earning an average of \$325.62 per month, while women reporting earning \$150.20, a difference of 53.87%. These findings reflect the success of the project's activities in supporting increased income and economic integration for the migrant population, while also contributing to reduced gender gaps.
- The distribution of the IPL Integration Index reveals key differences between EIP and non-EIP respondents, reflecting varied levels of integration. Among EIP respondents, 70% of respondents have an integration index between 0.40 and 0.59 with an average score of 0.45, indicating moderate integration with a margin for improvement. Among non-EIP respondents, 76% of respondents have a lower integration index, between 0.30 and 0.49, with an average of 0.41, indicating more limited integration. These differences in integration scores may be related to contextual factors that influence migrant participation and access to services, underlining the importance of addressing these challenges to promote greater cohesion and well-being among migrant and refugee populations.
- The analysis of integration by sex reveals clear differences between men and women among both EIP and non-EIP respondents. In both groups, men show higher integration indices compared to women. These results underscore the structural and sociocultural obstacles in both countries that limit opportunities for the inclusion of women in general.
- An analysis of income reveals a positive relationship between income levels and integration scores. As income increases, so does the level of integration, indicating that migrants with greater economic resources tend to integrate more successfully into the host country. This correlation suggests that access to financial resources is a key factor in the integration process, enabling migrants to access greater opportunities and services that facilitate their adaptation and participation in the host country society.
- There is a clear positive correlation between education level and integration scoring, where women present slightly higher integration scores with higher education levels.

- The analysis of integration by age indicates that individuals in older age groups demonstrate higher levels of integration, with those aged 45 years old and older achieving the highest integration scores. This suggests that experience and years in the host country may be factors that contribute to stronger integration. Additionally, the EIP respondents show consistently high integration indices across all age ranges.
- Employment is a key factor in enhancing integration levels. Labor integration varies considerably based on the type of activity and sex; however, both male and female EIP respondents exhibit higher integration across all labor categories, with the highest integration for individuals employed or working independently in a professional or technical role. These results show that access to employment, the type of work, and gender dynamics all influence migrants' capacity to fully integrate into their host country.
- The study results highlight the importance of migration regularization as a mechanism to facilitate integration of migrants and improve their quality of life. Regularization not only provides stability and access to basic services but also permits migrants to access labor benefits, formalize their businesses, and access financial services, facilitating more comprehensive participation in the economic and social aspects of their host country.
- The integration indices of migrants tend to increase in relation to the length of time the migrant has been in the host country. This positive relationship between length of stay and integration level suggests that time is crucial to establish social links, adopt cultural norms, and adapt to the new environment.
- The results demonstrate that EIP participants earn higher incomes than those in the control group, which in turn facilitates greater opportunities for integration, and supports a more permanent and sustainable establishment of EIP beneficiaries in their host country.
- By observing the dynamics of integration and analyzing the study results, EIP recommends adjustments to the study methodology. This includes revising questions related to integration across each dimension, specifically those related to financial inclusion, financial education, and access to financial services, to more precisely reflect the realities faced by the migrant and refugee population.



CHAPTER VII

RECOMMENDATIONS

- As a result of the findings obtained during the collection, processing, and analysis of the study's data, which was aimed at measuring the Venezuelan migrant population's level of integration in Peru and Ecuador, and by comparing EIP activities in both countries, EIP obtained important inputs. As a result, EIP outlined several recommendations for different sectors and organizations for the design of strategies that facilitate the integration of the migrant and refugee population across different dimensions, specifically from the point of view of economic integration:
- Based on identifying the fact that people who participate in initiatives like EIP, in which supporting economic inclusion is the main objective, have a higher income level, initiatives based on technical accompaniment (beyond humanitarian assistance) for beneficiaries, especially migrants, are important to implement, starting from initial stages of support. These strategies may begin with psycho-emotional support, specifically to address migratory grief, which affects the capabilities and expectations of individuals in a new host country. Additionally, from the initial stages of an intervention, it is important to identify and support potential cases of GBV which otherwise impede integration processes. Following these initial steps, it is important to implement a process to help migrants identify their abilities, skills, experience, and expectations to in turn orient them towards a livelihood, maintaining a focus on the market to promote economic activity and generate income to cover personal and family expenses in the host country.
- When referencing livelihoods, it is important to emphasize strategies that enable individuals to start or strengthen micro or small business, as well as provide tools and training to facilitate employment opportunities. In entrepreneurship programming, strengthening skills in areas such as business management, finance, marketing, distribution channels, and competitive analysis, along with mentorship programs to build trust and share learnings and success stories, are key for supporting entrepreneurs during the challenging early years of their businesses. It is also important to connect individuals with financial institutions that offer comprehensive product offerings to promote financial inclusion and enable effective risk management and contingency planning. Additionally, linking entrepreneurs to the market through fairs, virtual platforms, and other activities that promote sales is important.
- Key aspects of employment programming include providing technical and soft skills training, sharing information about the local labor market, and providing support for effective CV preparation. Additionally, support with the title recognition process is fundamental for facilitating participation in the labor market in individuals' professional or technical fields, thereby increasing their income. In addition to working with job seekers, it is important to train and raise awareness among private sector businesses to facilitate labor market opportunities based on increased understanding and recognition of the skills and capabilities of the migrant population in the host country. By addressing both labor supply and labor demand, this strategy creates opportunities for businesses to connect with job seekers and streamline the selection processes for filling job openings.

- To expand on the strategy recommendation outlined above, evidence from the EIP experience highlights that implementing integrated initiatives helps reduce gender income gaps by focusing on comprehensive support that promotes empowerment, economic independence, and autonomy, while breaking cycles of violence. Additionally, EIP's integrated strategies effectively support improved income generation among youth (ages 18-29 years), by leveraging digital tools, providing access to financial services, and facilitating opportunities for youth seeking their first job. These strategies contribute to a stabilization process for migrant populations, as evidenced by greater permanence among migrants in their host countries as compared to individuals who receive fragmented support that is not directly linked to real economic opportunities.
- It is important to promote relationships between the host country population and the migrant population, to break down stereotypes and combat xenophobia by promoting human connections, which in turn promote more inclusive and resilient societies with strengthened socioeconomic integration and social networks.
- Intervention across different sectors, including the public sector, private sector, civil society organizations, and international organizations, is fundamental to effectively implement project strategies. Cross-sectoral collaboration allows for the generation of committees and/or working groups focused on the design and implementation of activities, including at the public policy level, to facilitate financial inclusion of traditionally excluded populations, support foreign title recognition, reduce barriers for hiring migrants, and facilitate migratory regularization processes as key initial steps to support integration of migrants into their host country.
- Finally, we need to highlight the relevance of advocacy and public policy work with public sector entities, especially those who define norms and regulations across social, migratory, labor, financial, and economic spheres as key to generate regulatory environments that facilitate integration and promote opportunities for all. This strategy allows project efforts to generate greater impact, achieve broader reach, and therefore benefit a larger number of individuals.
- The present study examines various dimensions of migrant integration, however EIP's experience and studies such as the ENPOVE suggest that having a stable economic activity that generates income in the host country directly influences a migrant's decision to stay or continue migrating, whether through internal migration or to other countries. This reflects the high correlation between global integration and economic integration for migrants who arrive to a new country.
- Finally, it is important to recognize that the complexity of migration makes it difficult to establish a control group that is entirely comparable to the group that has benefited from the intervention. The results open new avenues for investigation, and future studies, with more sophisticated methodological design that would allow for deeper examination of the questions proposed through this study.





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