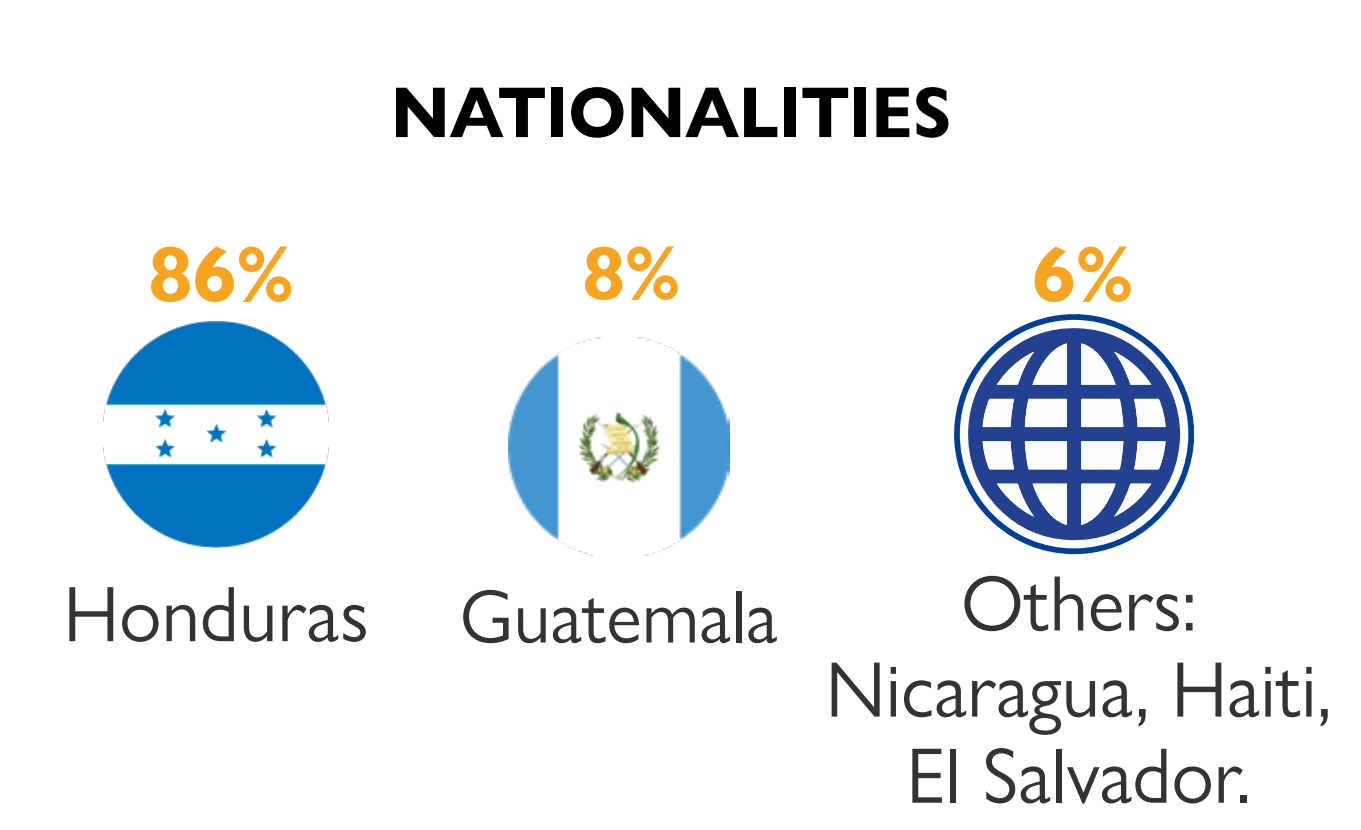
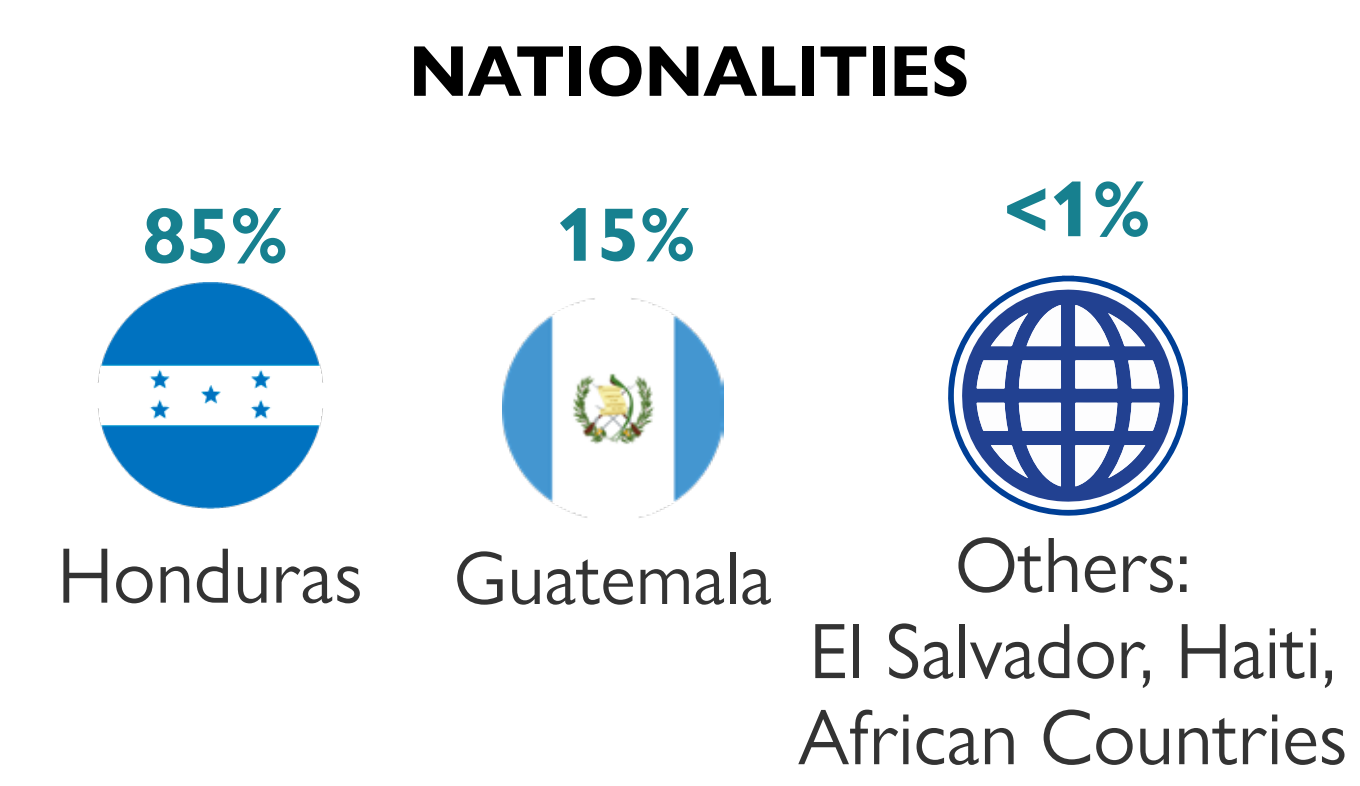
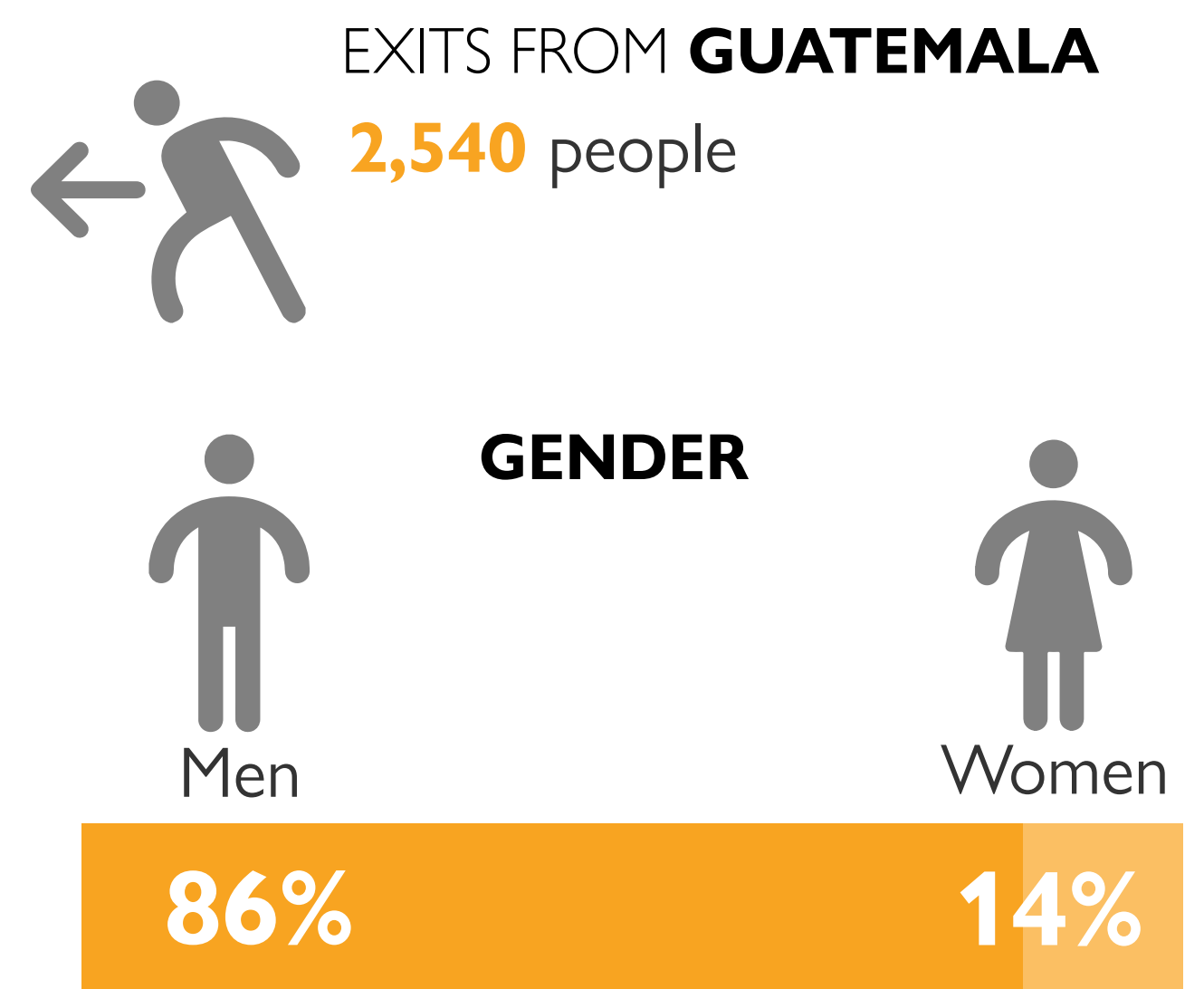
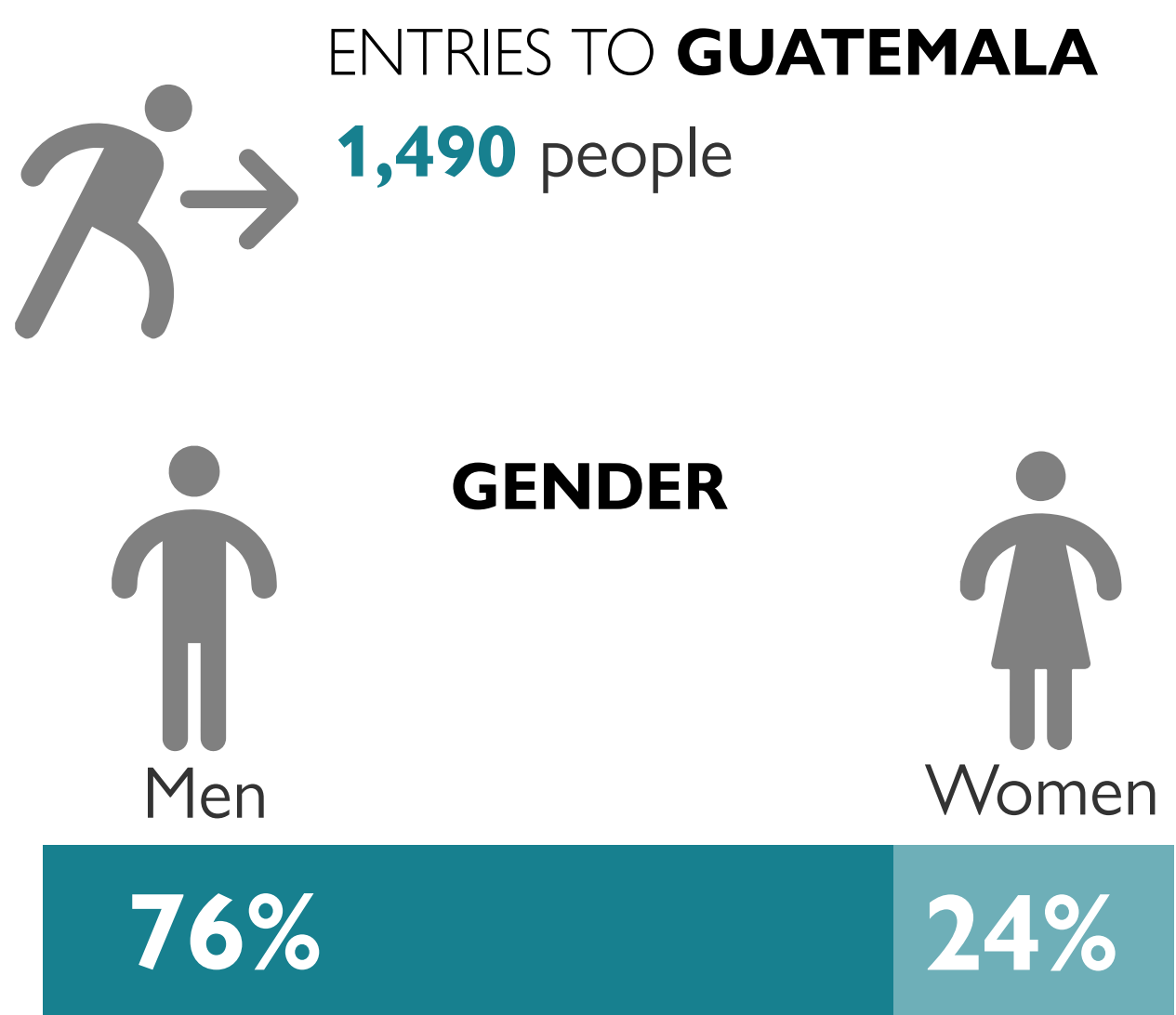


HIGHLIGHTS

IRREGULAR MIGRATION FLOWS

An irregular migration flow is understood to be the number of international migrants who arrive (enter) or depart (exit) a country during a period established irregularly through unofficial crossing points. These data are a dynamic measure for counting the number of people who cross a border and include those migrants who cross one or more times in a set period.

The data collected show the perception of key informants, so the data is interpreted as averages and general estimates of the situation.



Source: Key informants.

STRANDED POPULATION



The key informants identified 105 stranded persons: 15 at Puerto Barrios, 50 at El Naranjo, and 40 at El Carmen.

SITUATIONAL CONTEXT

Sources: 15 Key informants interviewed.

The DTM (Displacement Tracking Matrix), through the sub-components flow monitoring and mobility tracking, is a methodology whose purpose is to quantify and analyse trends in migration flows and the presence of migrants in specific localities during a specific period. Data were collected through interviews conducted remotely with strategically selected key informants. Estimates were received from the Red Cross, the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office, the Support Committee for Migrants, Refugees, and Trafficking Victims, the Izabal Department Government, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Municipality of Libertad, the National Migrant Services Council, the Labor Ministry's Department of Labor Mobility, and the Social Welfare Secretariat. The interviews were held in April 2021.

The data gathered are the result of systematic records of field observations or migratory control operations, or reflect the perception of the key informants consulted. In both cases, the estimates may be biased due to the difficulty of estimating irregular migration flows not recorded by the authorities. In addition, significant discrepancies exist between the population flows estimated by the different key informants, in both quantitative and qualitative terms, and the information available does not allow the quality of same to be determined. Therefore, the results presented in this Report are general approximations of the situation.

LOCATION

GUATEMALA



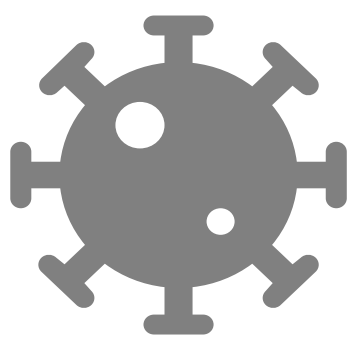
Basemap source: ESRI and UN World Map

This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.

SITUATIONAL CONTEXT



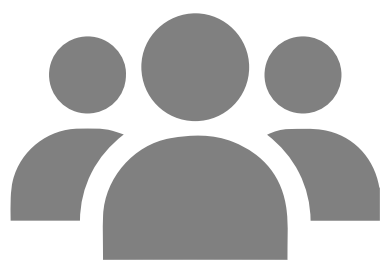
Street sales of face masks. Northern Central American countries Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador) © IOM 2020



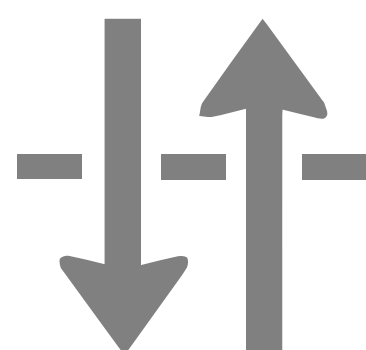
In recent months the COVID-19 Pandemic, along with the subsequent impact of Hurricanes Eta and Iota on the region, exacerbated the economic and labor crises affecting the Central American countries. Then the change of administration in the United States created among the migrant population expectations of more flexible migration policies.



On 19 March 2021 the Mexican Government ordered the closure of its southern borders (with Guatemala and Belize) to non-essential activities for one month, to prevent propagation of the new SARS-CoV-2 strain. On 29 March 2021, the Guatemalan Government declared a State of Prevention in the border Departments of Izabal, Zacapa, Chiquimula, El Progreso, and Petén in order to address the passage of migrant caravans from Honduras, under the justification of promoting order and governability and ensuring the security of the Guatemalan inhabitants.



After the containment and dispersion of the migrant caravan in Guatemala in January 2021, and in light of Mexican policy, the migration modalities and routes have varied in the region, with massive caravans being abandoned in favor of transit by smaller groups. For example, on 30 March another caravan set out with a smaller number of persons (around 300 migrants). This caravan headed for the United States was dispersed along the way by police roadblocks, and very few people succeeded in crossing the border by way of unofficial crossing points.



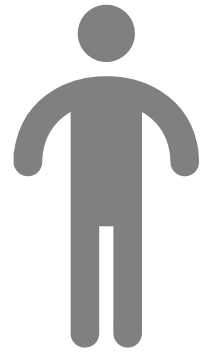
Finally, according to data from the Guatemalan Migration Institute (IGM), between January and March 2021 fewer people were returned by air from the United States to the Guatemalan Air Force Reception Center. However, the number of returnees arriving by land from Mexico to the Reception Center in Tecún Umán, San Marcos, Guatemala, increased.

INCOMING MIGRATION FLOWS



1,267 migrants
Border Crossing Point
Entre Ríos
March 2021

GENDER



Men

76%



Women

24%

NATIONALITIES

85%



Honduras

15%



Guatemala

<1%



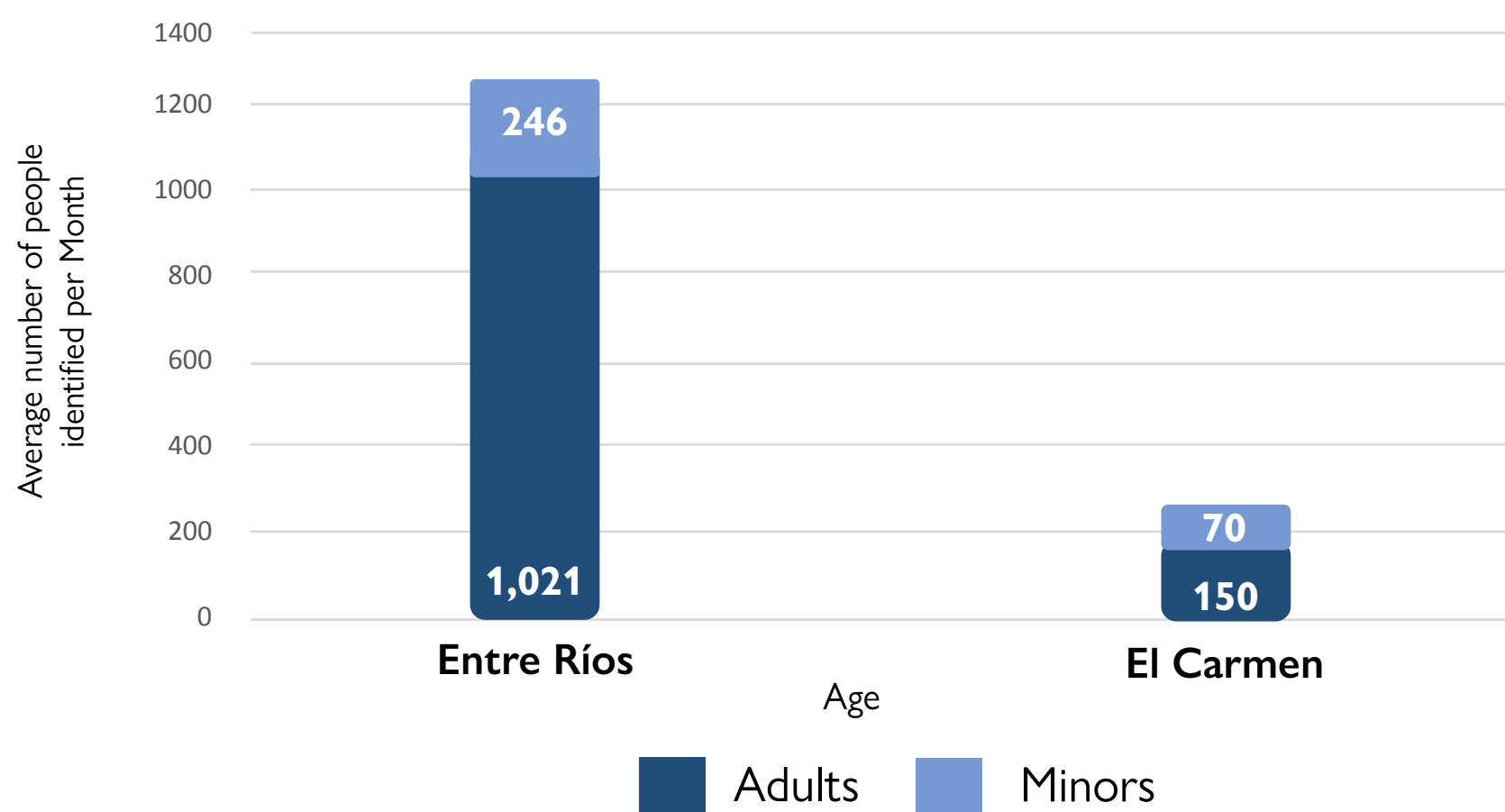
Others:
 El Salvador, Haiti,
 African Countries

The greatest number of entries during March took place at the Entre Ríos and Agua Caliente border crossing locations, both along the border with Honduras. Quantifiable data could only be obtained, however, for the Entre Ríos location. The key informants estimated that 1,267 people entered from Honduras in March, with most of them being Honduran nationals.

On 30 March reports were received regarding the formation of new caravans of at least 1,300 people in San Pedro Sula, heading for the Entre Ríos border crossing. In order to control the passage of the caravan into Guatemala, the Izabal Municipal Government installed five checkpoints along the border, and 200 soldiers were deployed to prevent people from using unofficial crossing points through forested areas. The Caribbean Naval Command also patrolled offshore nearby. At least 80 of these people were identified while attempting to enter Guatemala through unofficial crossing points.

The irregular incoming flow at El Carmen was estimated at 200 persons. The key informants mentioned an inflow of 300 persons corresponding to the labor and temporary migration of Guatemalan farm and domestic workers who work in Mexico and return to Guatemala. Approximately half of these people are registered with the Labor Ministry, and thus they cross the border with regular status, while the other half cross the border irregularly through unofficial crossing points.

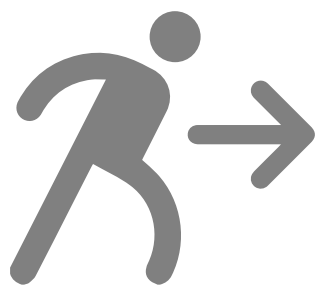
Monthly estimate of irregular entries by border crossing point (March 2021)



Source: Key informants.

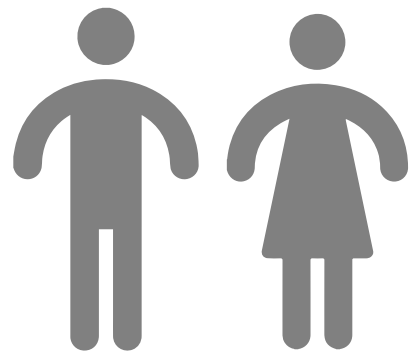
Regarding the gender composition of the migratory flow, 76 percent of the persons who entered Guatemala were men. In addition, the nationalities identified by the key informants and various secondary sources were Honduran, Guatemalan (including returnees entering at the border with Mexico), and a lesser flow of persons from El Salvador and extra-regional migrants from Africa and Haiti.

INCOMING MIGRATION FLOWS



4,177 migrants returned to the Reception Center for Returnees in Tecún Umán, San Marcos March 2021

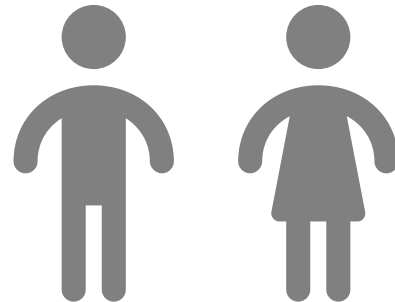
Total minors
100%
721



Adults

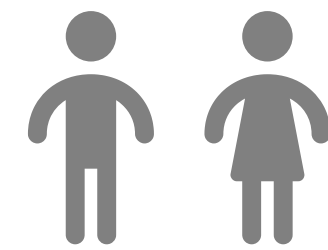
83%
3,456

AGE



Minors

17%
721

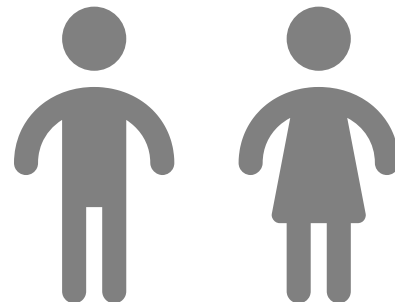


Unaccompanied minors
68%
497

With respect to persons in vulnerable conditions, the limitations of the field personnel for identifying differentiated profiles persist, which results in quantitative approximations according to the capacities of each key informant. Data exist only for underage persons.

Estimate of people identified in the irregular incoming migration flow under vulnerable conditions in Entre Ríos (March 2021)

Minors



19%
246

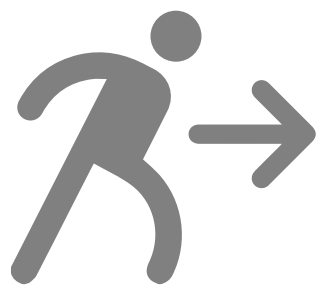
Percentage of the total migration flow in Entre Ríos

Source: Key informants.

246 underage persons were identified entering across the border from Honduras at Entre Ríos, Puerto Barrios, representing 19 percent of the flow at said crossing location. No underage persons were noted among the labor migration flow at El Carmen crossing, although 70 minors were returned from Mexico.

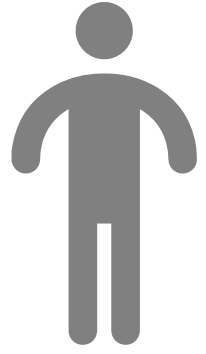
This figure for returned migrants may be significantly underestimated. According to secondary sources from the Guatemalan Migration Institute, 4,177 Guatemalans were returned to the country overland. 3,456 were adults and 721 were minors (17%), including 497 unaccompanied minors. Most of them returned in regular fashion overland through the Returnee Receiving Center located in Tecún Umán, Department of San Marcos.

OUTGOING MIGRATION FLOWS



2,000 migrants
Border Crossing Point
El Naranjo
March 2021

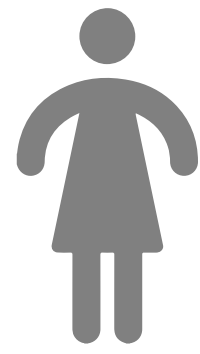
NATIONALITIES



GENDER

Men

86%



Women

14%

86%



Honduras

8%

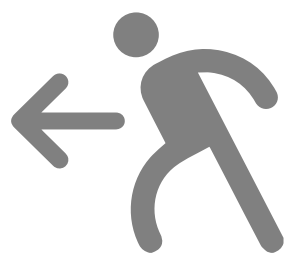


Guatemala

6%



Others:
Nicaragua, Haiti,
El Salvador.



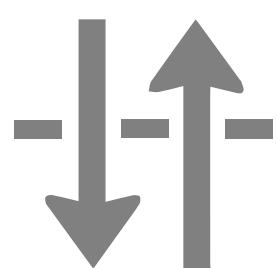
The principal outgoing flow during the period was identified at El Naranjo, with 2,000 persons, mostly Hondurans. In addition, the key informants estimated that 337 Hondurans exited through the El Carmen location, while 200 labor migrants entered regularly through El Carmen and another 200 Guatemalans entered through unofficial crossing points.



Regarding the composition of the migration flow by gender, 86 percent of the persons exiting Guatemala were men. With respect to nationalities, 86 percent of the persons were Hondurans, most of whom crossed at El Naranjo, while 8 percent were Guatemalans who also crossed at El Naranjo.



With respect to persons in vulnerable conditions, the limitations of the field personnel for identifying differentiated profiles persist, which results in quantitative approximations according to the capacities of each key informant.



It should be noted that the outgoing flows may be underestimated. According to secondary sources, between 01 January and 21 March, the Mexican National Migration Institute (INM) prevented the entry of 9,422 Guatemalan migrants. It is unknown, however, whether said persons entered Mexico with regular or irregular status.

MIGRANT POPULATIONS STRANDED ALONG THE BORDERS

105 migrants
Border Crossing Points:
Entre Ríos, El Naranjo
y El Carmen
March 2021



NATIONALITIES

59%



Honduras

30%



Guatemala

9%



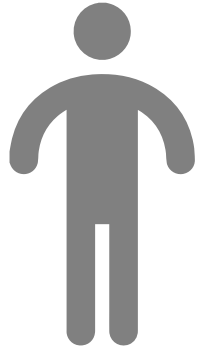
El Salvador

2%

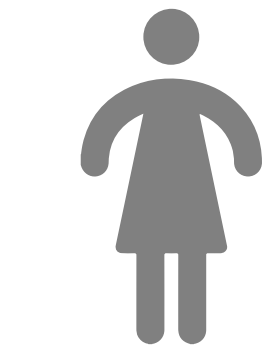


Nicaragua

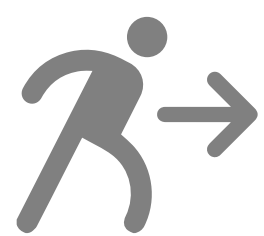
GENDER



Men



Women

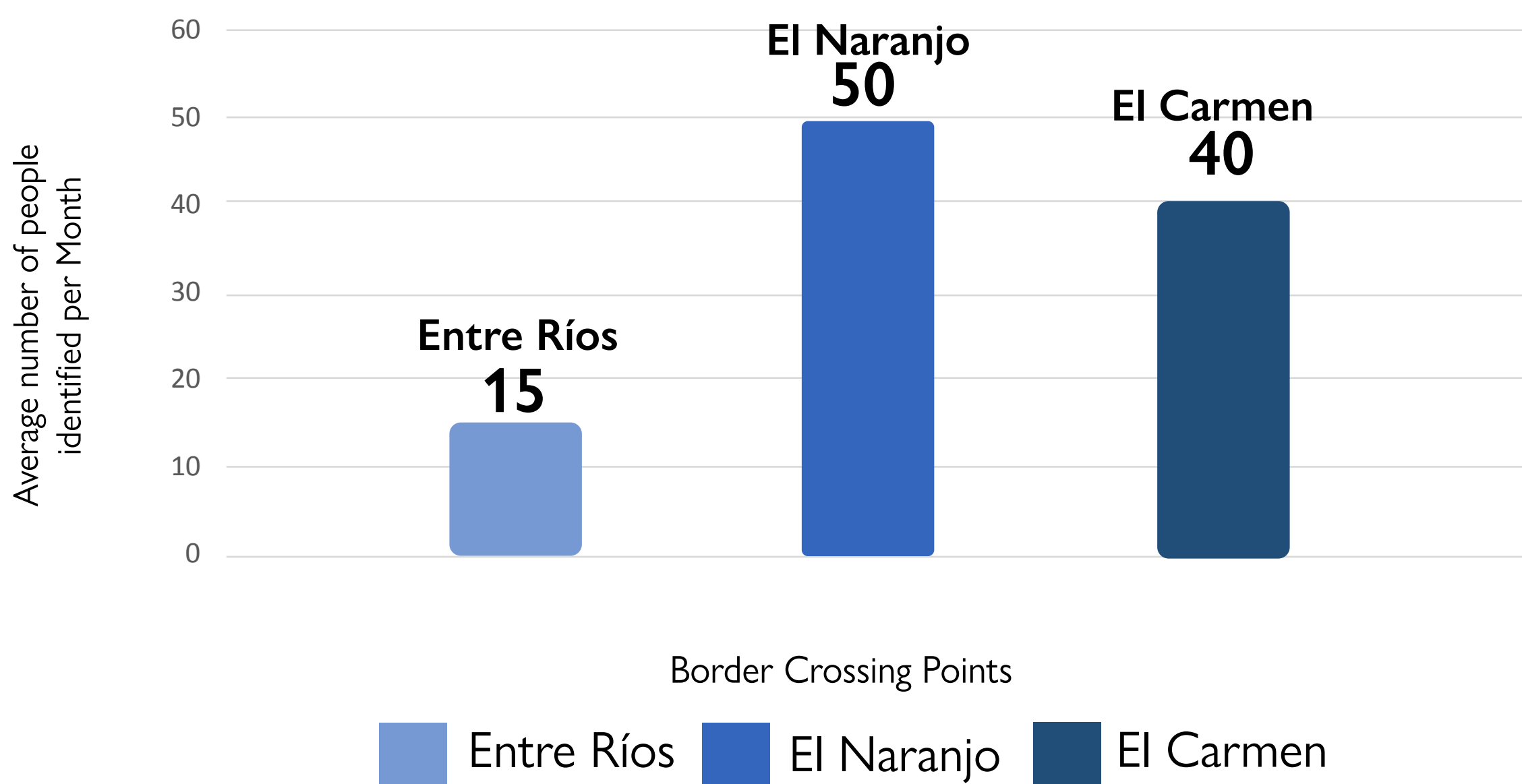


The key informants identified 105 stranded persons during March: 15 at the Entre Ríos border crossing; 50 at El Naranjo; and 40 at El Carmen. 70 percent of the stranded population were men.

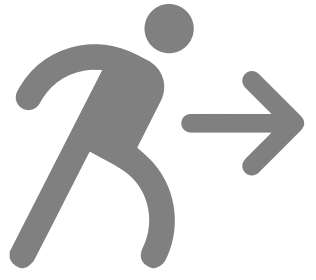


Eleven of the persons identified at Entre Ríos were Hondurans and four were Salvadorans. Almost all of the persons stranded at El Naranjo were Hondurans, while most of the persons stranded at El Carmen were Guatemalans. Some Nicaraguan nationals were also identified among the stranded population. Overall, 59 percent of the stranded population were Hondurans, 30 percent were Guatemalans, 9 percent were Salvadorans, and 2 percent were Nicaraguans.

Monthly estimate of stranded migrants by Border Crossing (March 2021)



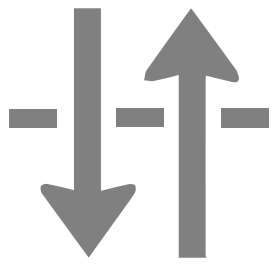
CONCLUSIONS



The flow into Guatemala was comprised of Hondurans who crossed at Entre Ríos in small groups or caravans. In addition, Guatemalan migrants (labor migrants and returnees) were identified at the border with Mexico (El Carmen and El Naranjo).



The main outgoing flow during March occurred at El Naranjo border crossing location. There were also reports of persons exiting through El Carmen.



According to information from the Mexican authorities regarding irregular migrants who were detained, the outgoing flows may be significantly underestimated.



Regarding the population of stranded migrants, the key informants identified 105 persons: 15 at Entre Ríos; 50 at El Naranjo; and 40 at El Carmen.



The limitations of the key informants for identifying vulnerable profiles are highlighted, except in the case of underage persons.



Field work by IOM officers. Northern Central American countries (Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador) © IOM 2020

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