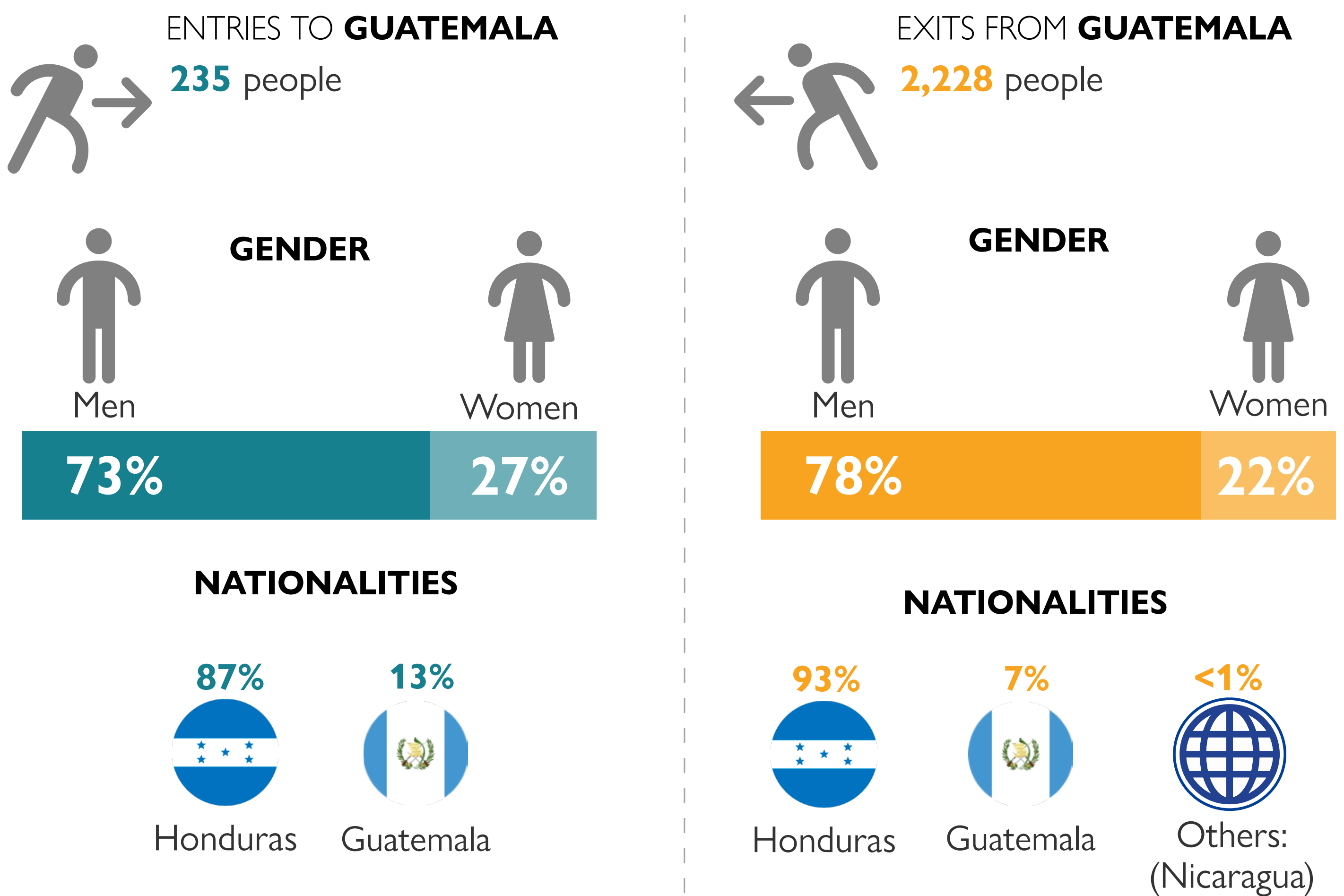


## HIGHLIGHTS

### 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 12 stranded persons, all of them Hondurans and most of them men: 5 persons in El Naranjo, 3 in Tecún Umán and 4 in 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 from the following institutions were collected: Human Rights Ombudsman's Office; Committee to Support Migrants, Refugees and Victims of Trafficking; Departmental Government of Izabal; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); "Refugio de la Niñez" Programme; Local Authority of La Libertad; Local Authority of Tecún Umán; National Council for Assistance to Migrants; El Naranjo Health Centre; Department of Labour Mobility of the Ministry of Labour; and Secretariat of Social Welfare. The interviews were conducted in May 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.

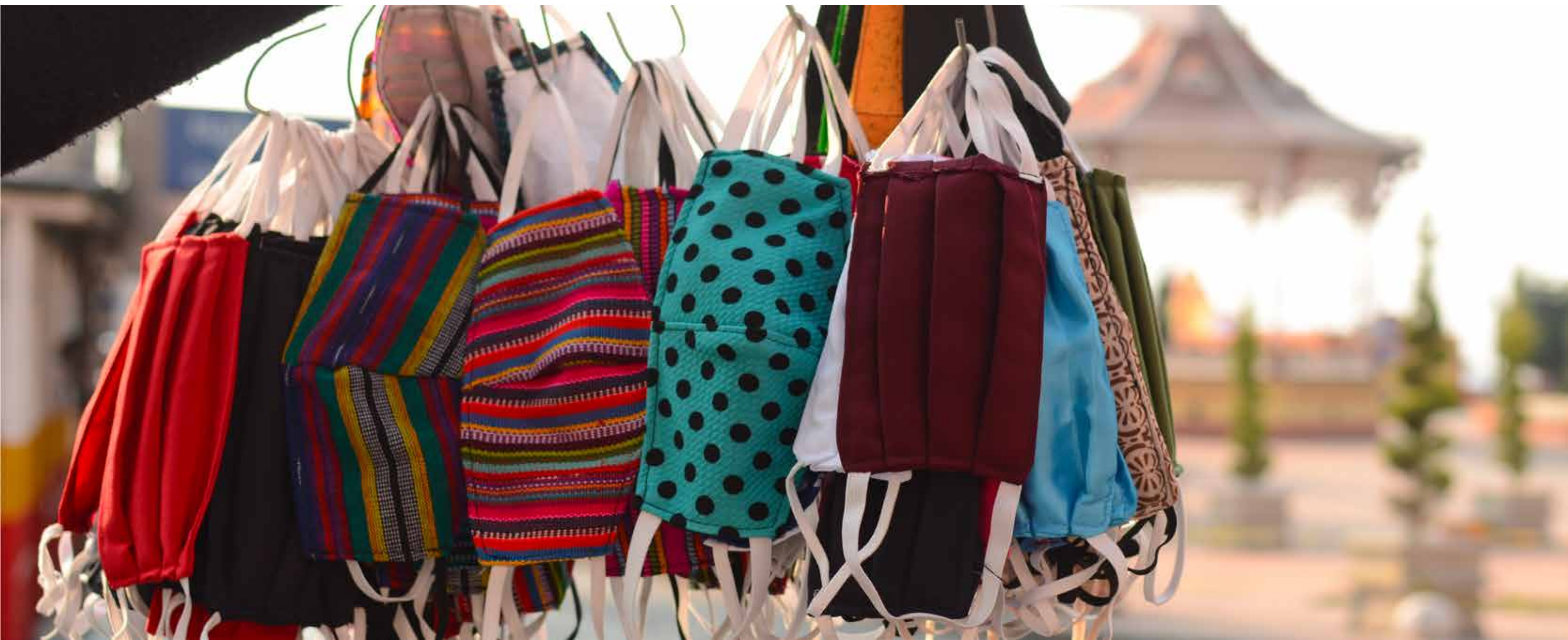
## LOCATION GUATEMALA



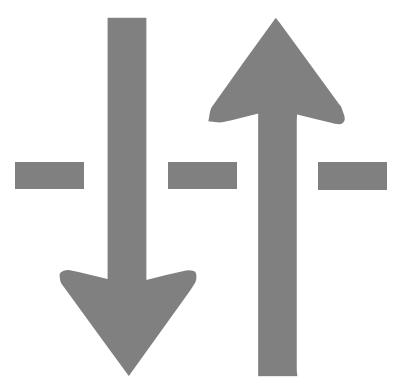
Basemap source: ESRI and UN World Map

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



The entry and transit of migrants through Guatemala is increasingly controlled, as evidenced through specific actions such as detention at the borders and control actions along the highways to identify irregular migrants attempting to transit through the country. The actions used to contain irregular migration flows include empowering the security forces, in coordination with the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare, to ask persons travelling through national territory to state their destination and show documents reflecting their itinerary.



The requirement to submit a negative PCR test to enter the country prevents many migrants from entering Guatemala in a regular manner due to the high cost of the test. Therefore, many migrants choose to cross the border through irregular border crossings. It is important to mention that cases of false tests have been identified in border locations.



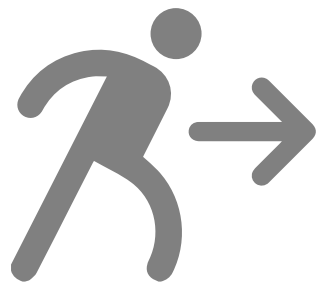
Furthermore, it should be noted that a warning was issued about a new migrant caravan in April. However, this caravan was not created. Nevertheless, containment actions were established by the Government of Guatemala through the Army and the National Civil Police Force (PNC) in the departments of Guatemala bordering with Honduras, El Salvador and Mexico. There is ongoing pressure regarding irregular migration in Guatemala and the topic has been addressed as a national security situation, in view of the potential entry of migrants. Therefore, violations of the human rights of this population group are becoming increasingly visible.



A high-level meeting with authorities of the Government of Guatemala and the US Government was held in April. During the meeting, the importance of the rule of law in Guatemala was highlighted, which should focus on creating employment, providing access to health care and education, etc., which are essential in order to ensure dignified living conditions in the country.<sup>1</sup>

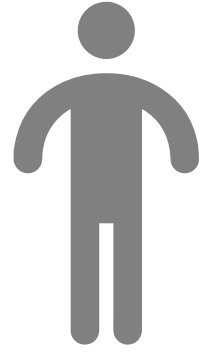
<sup>1</sup> Prensa Comunitaria. (6 April 2021). Security, migration and economy, the topics discussed between the governments of Guatemala and the U.S. Prensa Comunitaria. Retrieved in 2021, <https://www.prensacomunitaria.org/2021/04/seguridad-migracion-y-economia-los-temas-discutidos-entre-los-gobiernos-de-guatemala-y-eeuu/>

# INCOMING MIGRATION FLOWS



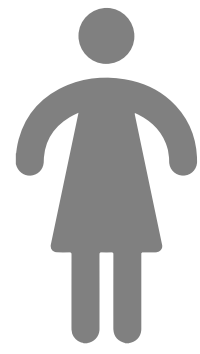
**235 migrants**  
**Border Crossing Points:**  
**Entre Ríos and El Carmen**  
**April 2021**

## GENDER



**Men**

**73%**



**Women**

**27%**

## NATIONALITIES

**87%**



Honduras

**13%**



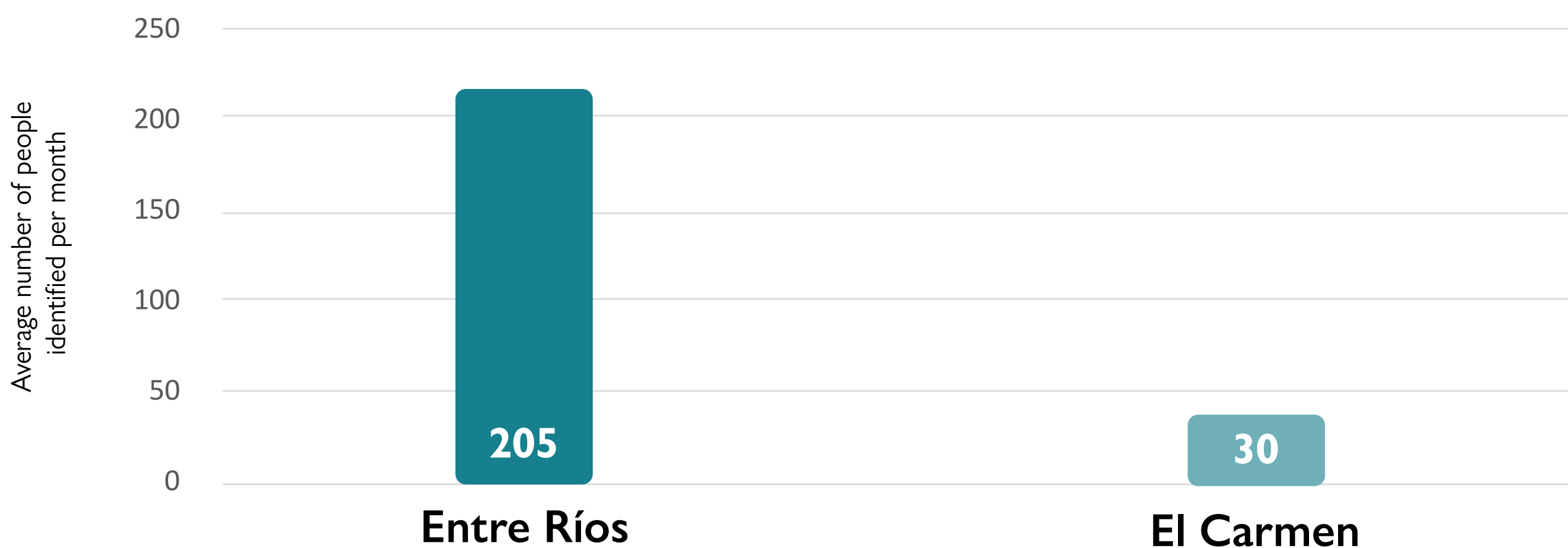
Guatemala

The key informants estimated that 205 persons entered the country from Honduras through the border crossing of Entre Ríos, Izabal in April. The majority of these persons were Honduran nationals. Furthermore, an estimated number of 30 irregular migrants entered the country through the El Carmen border crossing. These persons are Guatemalan nationals who work in Mexico and re-enter Guatemala in an irregular manner. Regarding the composition of this migration flow by gender, 73% of the persons entering the country are men.

With regard to persons in vulnerable situations, limitations of the field staff persist regarding their ability to identify differentiated profiles. Thus, the key informants provided quantitative data according to their capacities. Fifty boys, girls and adolescents were identified in Puerto Barrios, accounting for 24% of the migrants entering the country through this border crossing. No boys, girls and adolescents were identified in the labour migration flows passing through the border crossing of El Carmen.

Secondary sources suggest that the data provided by the key informants do not accurately describe the flow of persons entering the country, particularly the flow of returning persons. The Guatemalan Institute of Migration (IGM) recorded 2,610 returned persons for the period of 1-23 April 2021: 2,328 by land through Tecún Umán, and 282 by air. Of these persons, 81% are male and 19% are female; 16% are children and adolescents, the majority of them male, and the vast majority of them returned by land. Furthermore, 77% of the children and adolescents are unaccompanied.

**Monthly approximation of persons entering irregularly per border crossing location (April 2021)**

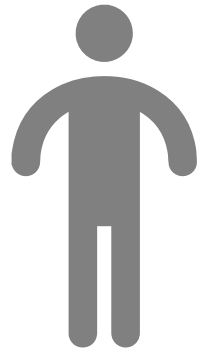


Source: Key informants.

# OUTGOING MIGRATION FLOWS



**2,228 migrants**  
**Border Crossing Points:**  
**El Naranjo y Tecún Umán**  
**April 2021**



**Men**

**86%**

## GENDER



**Women**

**14%**

## NATIONALITIES

**93%**



Honduras

**7%**

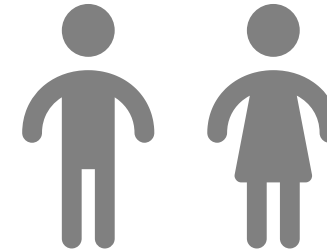


Guatemala

**<1%**



Otras:  
(Nicaragua)



**Minors**

**21% of outgoing flows**

The main flow of persons who exited the country during the period in question was identified at El Naranjo, with 1,428 persons. In addition, the key informants also mentioned a significant exit flow through the Tecún Umán border crossing – approximately 800 persons. The majority of the migrants identified at both border crossings were Honduran nationals. In total, 93% were Hondurans and 7% were Salvadorans. With regard to the composition of the migration flow by gender, 78% of the persons exiting Guatemala are men.

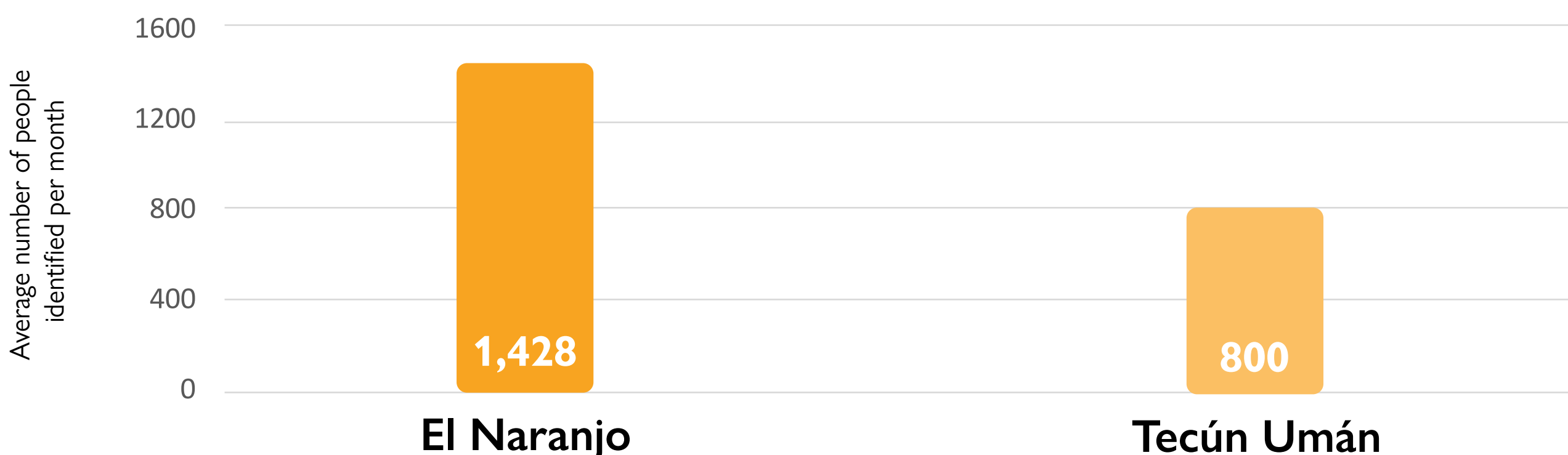
According to the interviewed sources, migrants entering the country through the border crossing of El Corinto in Izabal tend to transit through the department of Peten. There are 4 border crossings in Peten: two of them are official and are located in the municipalities of La Libertad and Las Cruces. The official border crossings are usually avoided by irregular migrants. According to the interviewed persons, the majority of the migrants arriving at El Ceibo use the existing irregular border crossings in the community of El Naranjo, and to a lesser degree, in Bethel. In order to avoid migration controls they cross the border through La Técnica by boat on the Usumacinta river, at night, when less control actions are implemented on both sides of the border. Migrants arriving at the Tecún Umán border crossing in San Marcos enter the country through the border crossings of Florido and Agua Caliente in Chiquimula, at the border with Honduras. They seek to enter Mexico through irregular border crossings, mainly by crossing the Suchiate river. And some of them travel through the highlands of the department of San Marcos and try to cross the border through irregular border crossings in the municipality of Tacaná.

With regard to persons in vulnerable situations, limitations of the field staff persist regarding their ability to identify differentiated profiles. Thus, the key informants provided quantitative data according to their capacities. However, 478 boys, girls and adolescents were identified, accounting for 21% of the flow of migrants exiting the country.

It should be noted that the outgoing flows could be underestimated, since the flow of Guatemalan nationals is not reflected in the figures, although a significant number of persons return to the country each month. However, it is not known if these persons entered Mexico in a regular or irregular manner.

Finally, it is important to mention that the secondary sources also enabled establishing that 310 Honduran nationals who had left the country in a caravan towards the United States on 30 March 2021 returned on 6 April through the border crossings of Agua Caliente and Corinto.

**Monthly approximation of persons leaving irregularly per border crossing location (April 2021)**



Source: Key informants.



Organizational meeting of IOM officials. Northern Central American countries (Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador) © IOM 2020



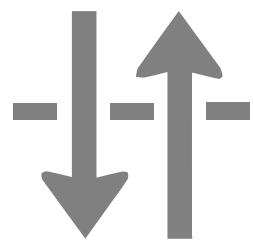
**12 migrants**  
**Border Crossing Points:**  
**Entre Ríos, El Naranjo**  
**y El Carmen**  
**April 2021**

## NATIONALITIES

**100%**



Honduras

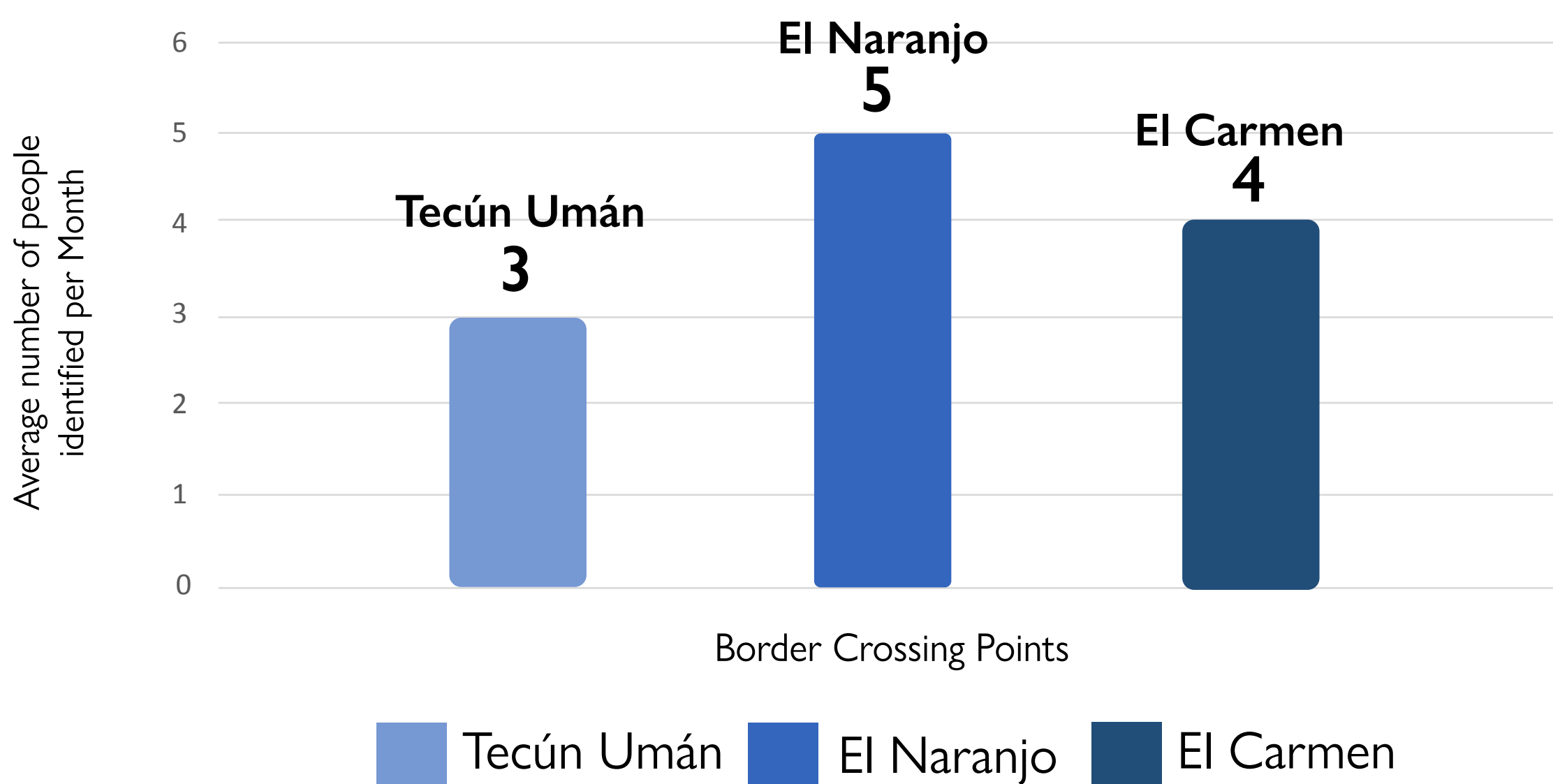


The key informants identified 12 stranded persons at the analysed border crossings. All of them were Honduran nationals and most of them were men: 5 persons in El Naranjo, 3 in Tecún Umán and 4 in El Carmen.



In addition, based on the information provided by the secondary sources, 61 stranded persons were identified in Retalhuleu: 27 from Haiti, 15 from Chile, 9 from Cuba, 5 from African countries, 2 from Ecuador, 2 from Brazil and 1 from French Guyana.

## Monthly estimate of stranded migrants by Border Crossing (April 2021)



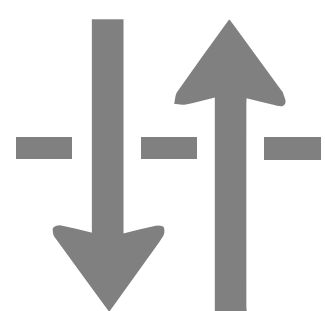
## CONCLUSIONS



The flow of migrants entering Guatemala is mainly composed of Honduran nationals crossing the border in Entre Ríos.



The main outgoing flow during the period in question concentrated at the border crossing of El Naranjo. However, according to the information provided by relevant authorities about irregular migrants detained in the country, the flows could be significantly underestimated.



Furthermore, the difficulty is highlighted to gain a general view of the migration situation in Guatemala based on the information provided by the selected key informants. These informants provided limited information about the flows of Guatemalans leaving the country. In addition, the report shows the existence of additional points of entry and exit, other than the monitored border crossings.



The limitations of the key informants are highlighted to identify profiles of persons in vulnerable situations, except for boys, girls and adolescents.



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

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