

▶ Highlights

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

IRREGULAR MIGRATION FLOW

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.

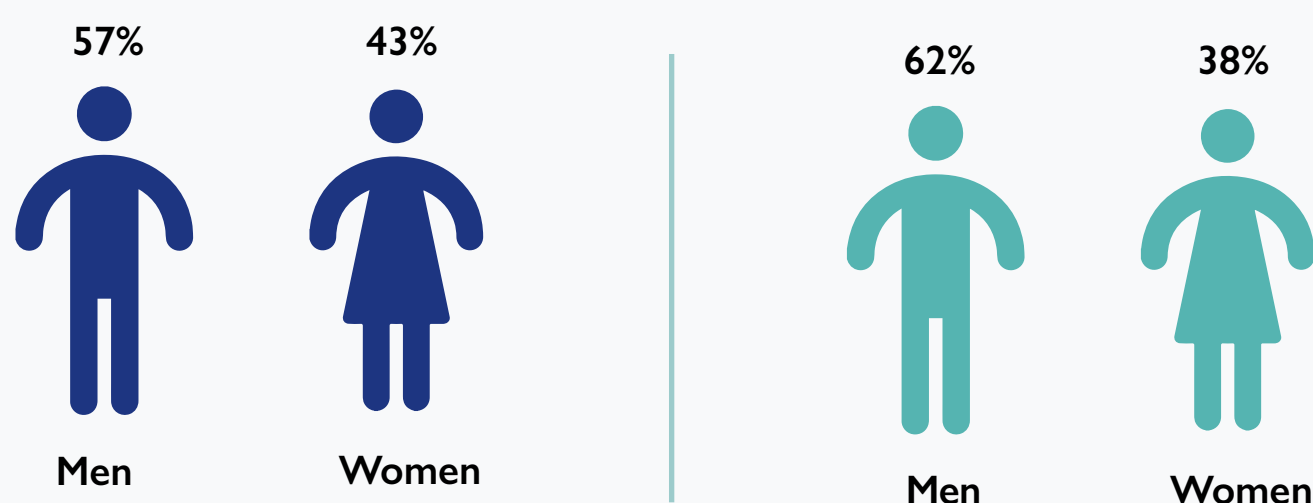


Entries to El Salvador:
90 people on average per month
28 minimum- 115 maximum

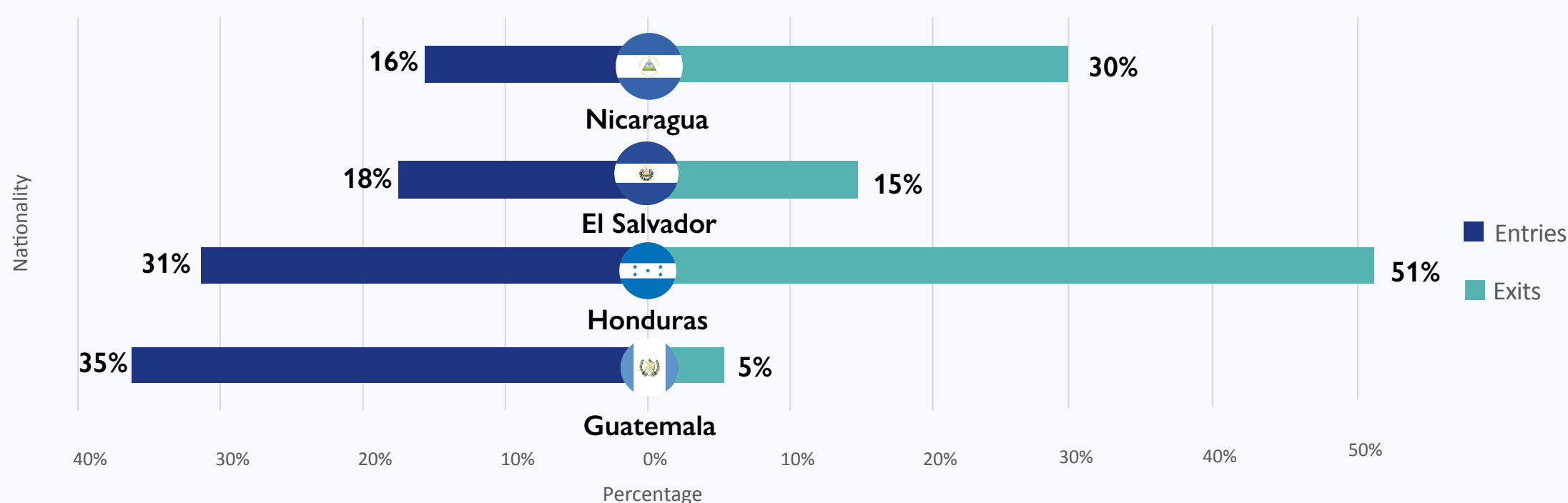


Exits from El Salvador:
69 people on average per month
55 minimum-74 maximum

Gender



Identified Nationalities



STRANDED POPULATION

From consultation with 16 key informants, were identified:



75 people in El Amatillo

87 people in La Hachadura

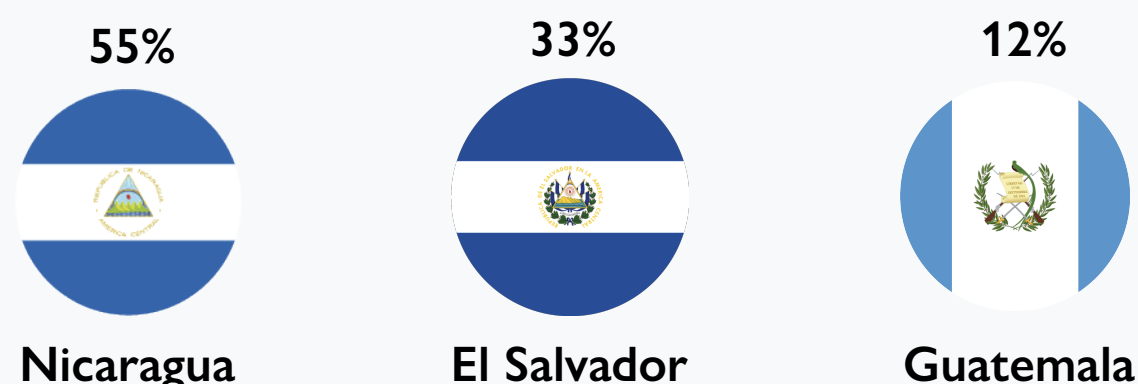
22 people in San Cristóbal

No data available in:
Angiatú, El Poy and Las Chinamas



Men (majority)

Nationalities



Source: 16 key informants interviewed.

Location: Border crossing points of El Amatillo, La Hachadura, Las Chinamas, San Cristobal, Anguiatú and El Poy.

The DTM (Displacement Tracking Matrix), through the sub-components of flow monitoring and mobility tracking, is a methodology with the purpose of quantifying and analyzing trends in migration flows and the presence of migrants in locations during a specific period. The data was collected via remote interviews with strategically selected key informants, from the following institutions: Mayor's Office of Candelaria de la Frontera, Municipal Mayor's Office of La Unión, Municipal Mayor's Office of Pasaquina, General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners (DGME),

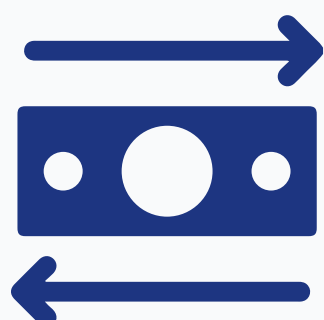
The Solidarity Fund for Health (FOSALUD) and the International Health Office of the Ministry of Health, and the Border Division of the National Civil Police.

The data collected only shows the perception of the key informants consulted and, in some cases, are the result of systematic records of field observations or migration management operations, so data are interpreted as averages and general approximations of the situation.

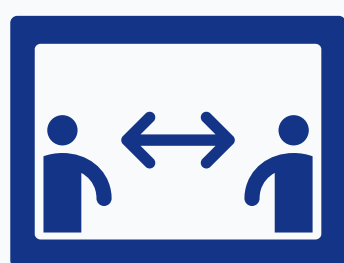
SITUATIONAL CONTEXT



Regarding the COVID-19 pandemic during the September-November quarter, the Government of El Salvador has strengthened the public health network, equipping and strengthening health centers, and creating a hospital to care for patients with the disease. Massive tests were carried out in different parts of the territory and cards were handed to the SARS-CoV-2 recovered patients.³ As of November 30, 2020, El Salvador counted 39,130 positive cases, there is no data on deaths.⁴



At the same time, there is a total national economic reopening, since the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court of Justice declared Legislative Decree 661 constitutional, which contains the Special Emergency Law for the COVID-19 Pandemic, Comprehensive Life Care, Health and Reopening of the Economy.⁵ This decree aims to establish provisions for comprehensive life and health care in the framework of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the establishment of measures to guarantee the right to work, allowing the gradual resumption of work, economic and administrative activities both in the public and private sectors, within the framework of respect for democratic institutions and human rights.



However, under government directive, it is necessary to continue with biosafety protocols, wearing masks, washing hands regularly, maintaining at least two meters of distance between people, sharing within the households with the cluster or social bubble of no more than 10 people and leave only when strictly necessary; as well as complying with the biosecurity protocols that are implemented both in the workplace and in any other spaces.⁶



Regarding the opening of land and air borders, from September 21, 2020, all travelers who wish to enter El Salvador must present a negative SARS-CoV-2 PCR test upon arrival, this came after a partial closure, from last March, where foreigners were prevented from entering, due to the pandemic. The test must have been carried out a maximum of 72 hours before entering El Salvador.⁷

³ Retrieved from: www.presidencia.gob.sv/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/CO-AGOSTO-23-2020.pdf

⁴ Retrieved from: www.covid19.gob.sv/

⁵ Retrieved from: www.arpas.org.sv/2020/08/reapertura-economica-el-regreso-a-la-normalidaden-el-salvador-1/

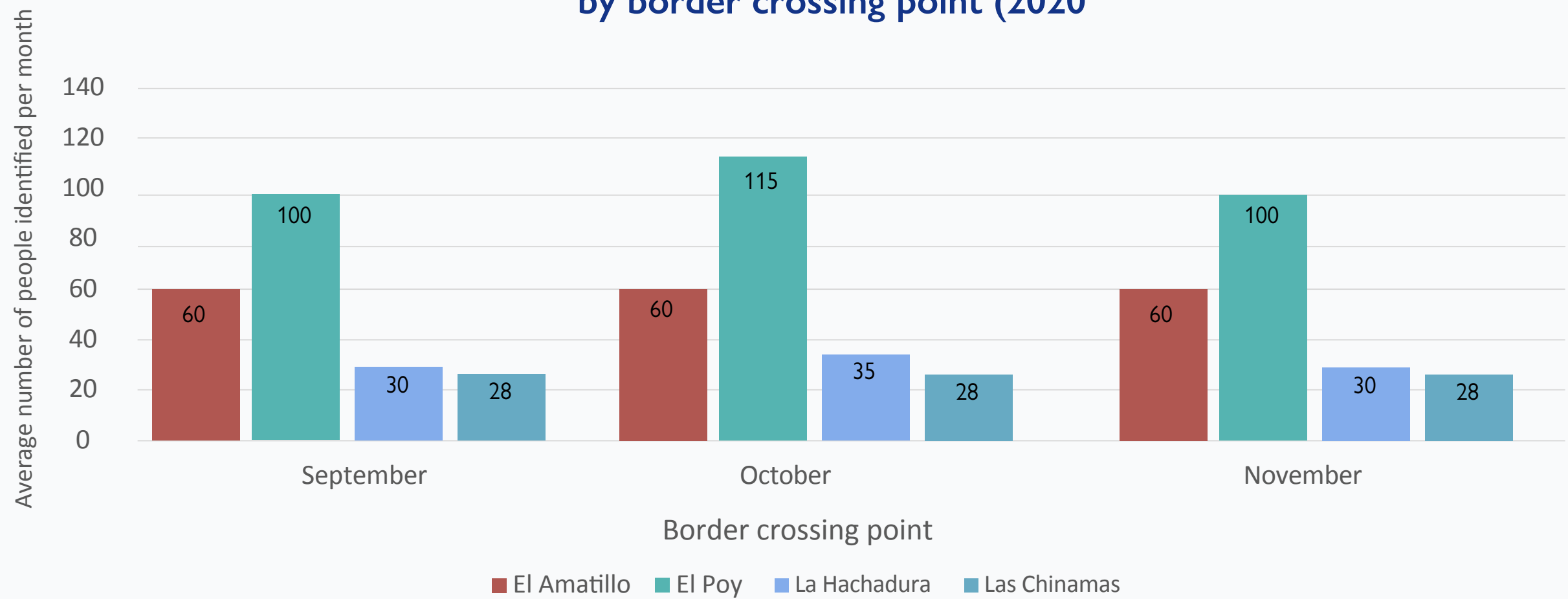
⁶ Retrieved from: www.presidencia.gob.sv/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/CO-AGOSTO-23-2020.pdf

⁷ Retrieved from: www.diario.elmundo.sv/migracion-exigira-prueba-covid-19-en-fronteras-terrestres-desde-hoy/



INCOMING MIGRATION FLOW

Monthly estimate of migrants entering irregularly by border crossing point (2020)

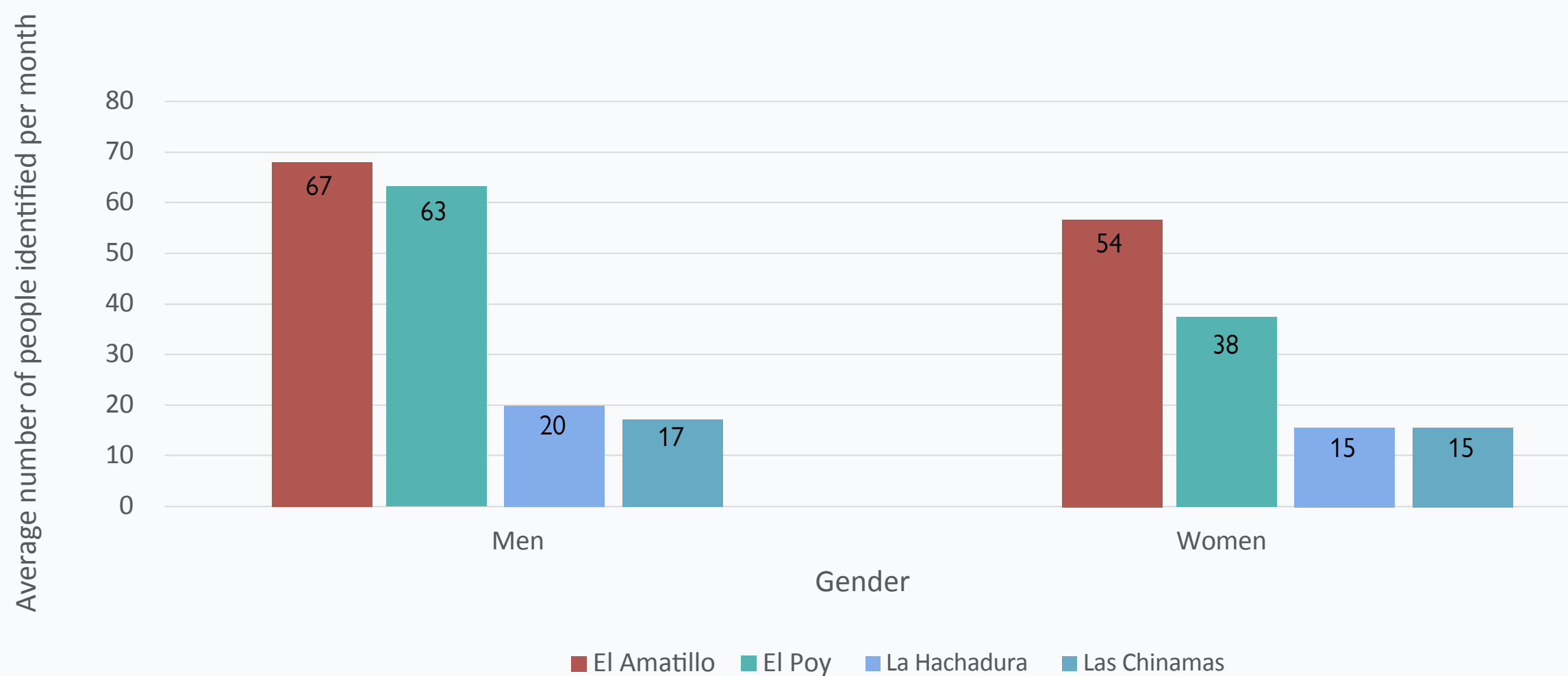


Source: Key informants consulted.

In general, there is a sustained estimated flow of 210 to 230 people entering with an irregular migratory status through all the studied border crossing points of El Salvador, according to key informants consulted. Specifically, during the months of October to November, 60 migrants were identified entering through the El Amatillo border. In addition, at least between 100 and 115 people were identified by the El Poy border.

On the borders of La Hachadura and Las Chinamas; the entries are less noticeable, and it is estimated that between 25 to 35 people per month were counted. Finally, no entries were identified on the Anguiatú and San Cristóbal border crossing points.

Monthly estimate of people entering irregularly by gender and border crossing point (2020)



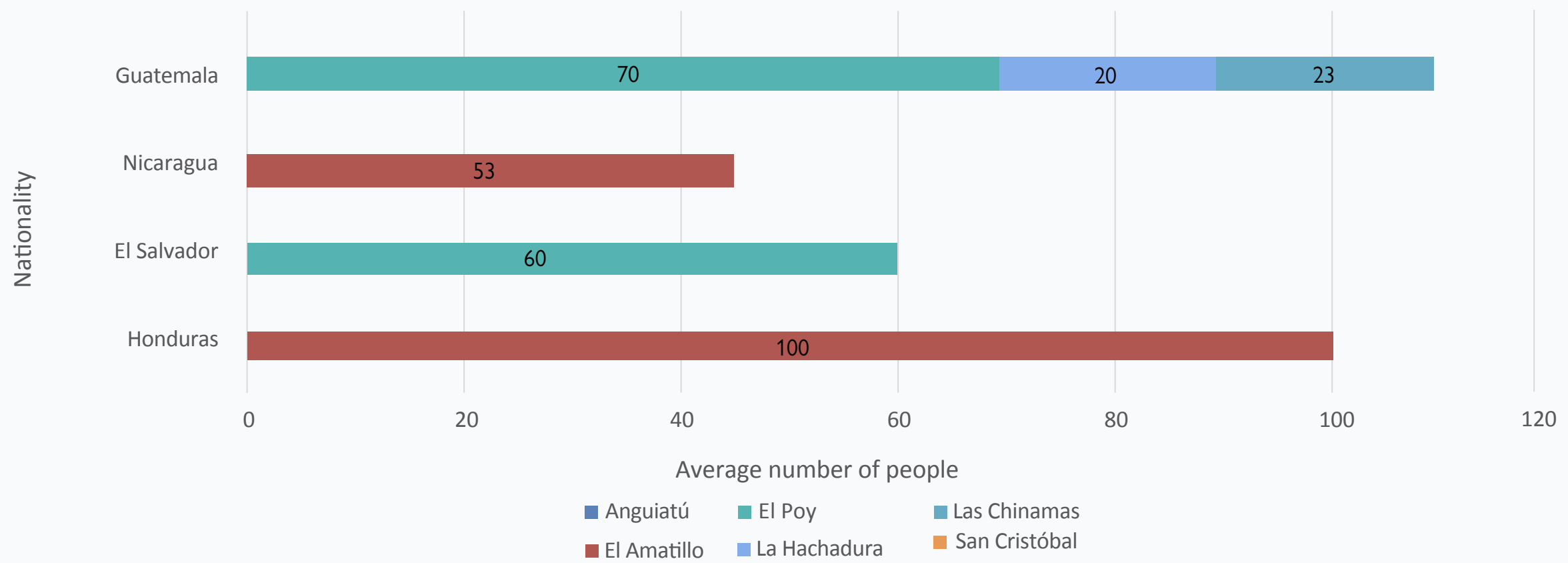
Source: Key informants consulted.

Regarding the composition of the migration flow by gender, more than half (57%) of the people who entered irregularly through El Amatillo, La Hachadura and El Poy were men. In the case of the border crossing points of Las Chinamas, the ratio between men and women is equal.



INCOMING MIGRATION FLOW

Main nationalities reported by key informants in the irregular incoming migration flow by border crossing points (2020)

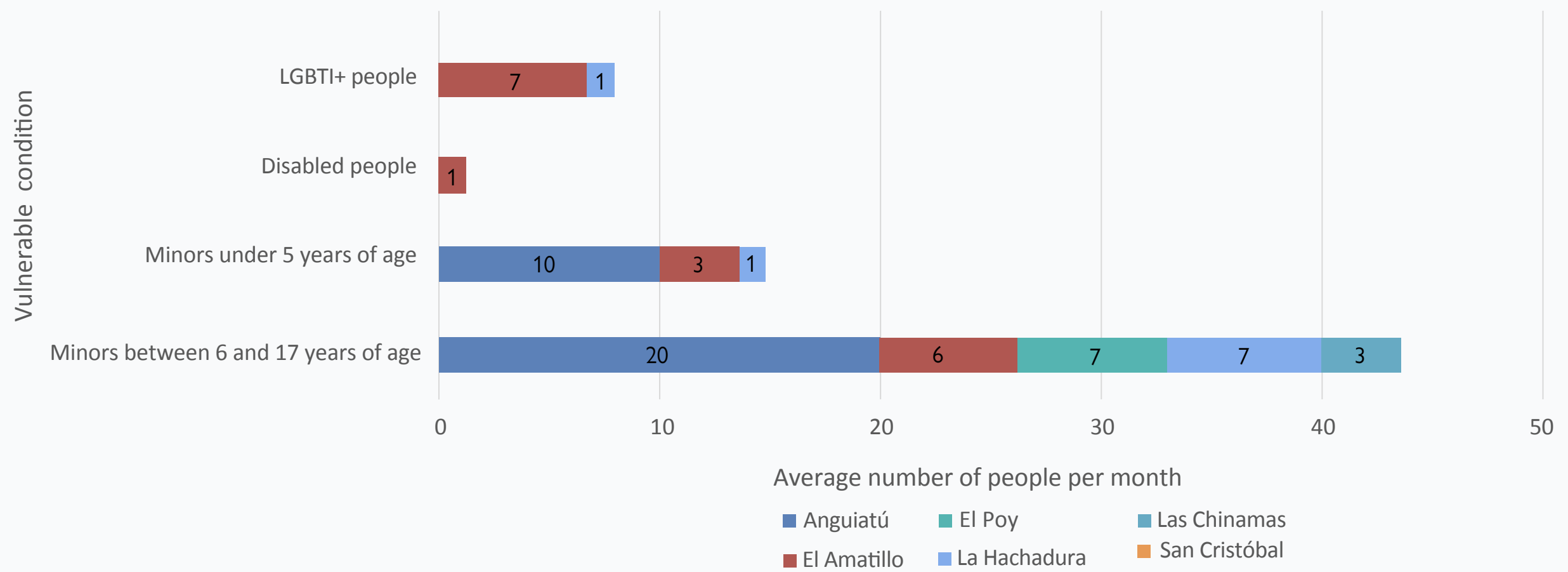


Source: Key informants consulted.

In the flow monitoring, the main nationalities reported are Guatemalan (35%), Honduran (31%), Salvadoran (18%) and Nicaraguan (16%).

People from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador correspond to an intra-regional migration flow related to cross-border commercial and access to services, mainly on El Amatillo and Las Chinamas borders, respectively. In addition, cross-border migration and neighborhood transit occurs at these borders, determined by the search for better job and economic opportunities

Estimated of people identified in irregular incoming migration flow under vulnerable conditions by border crossing points (2020)



Source: Key informants consulted.

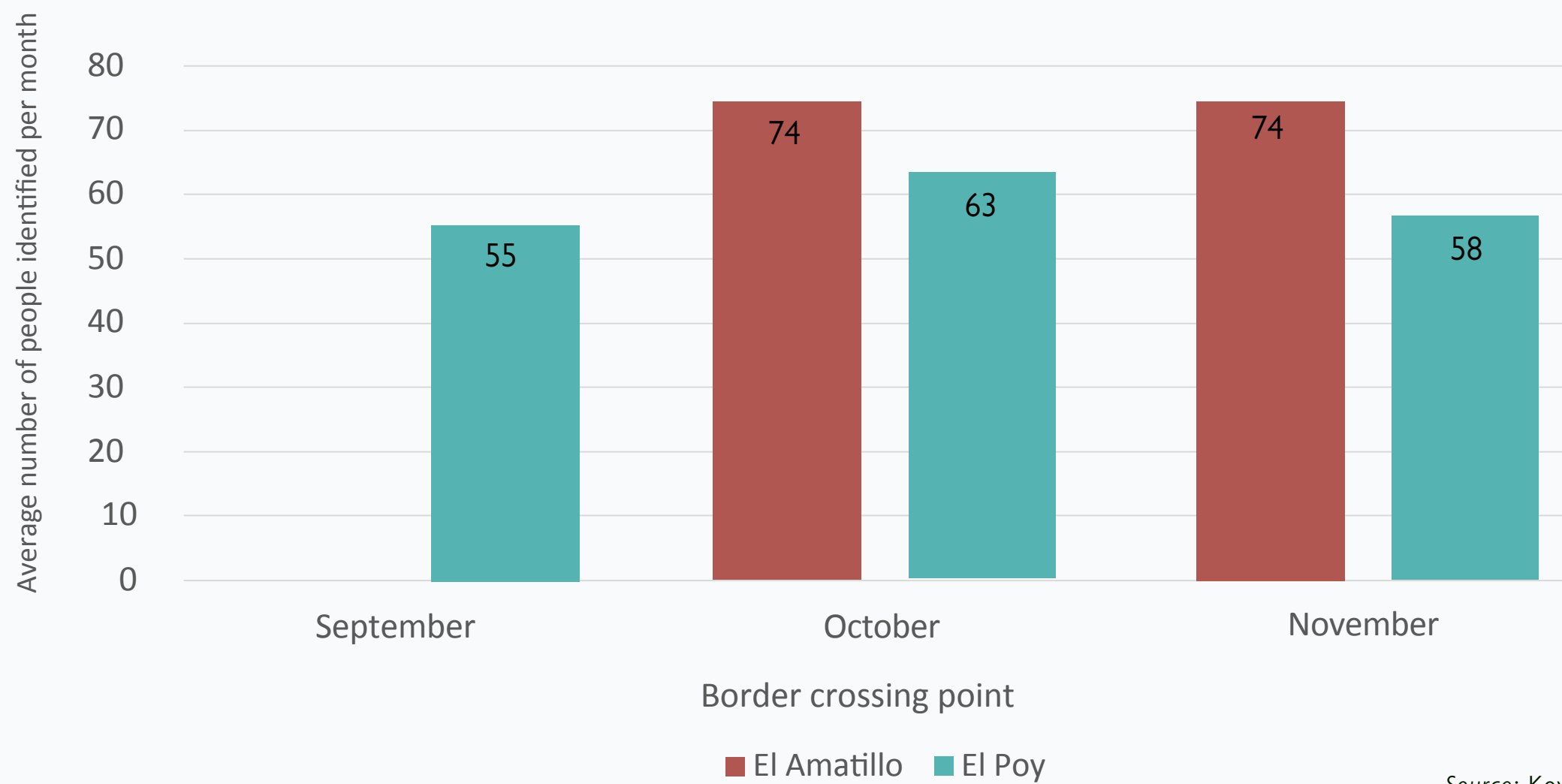
In relation to people in vulnerable conditions, field staff still experience limitations to identify different profiles, so a quantitative approach is available according to the capacities of each key informant. Anguiatú is the border crossing point where the greatest number of vulnerable people have been identified, with people between 6 and 17 and under 5 being the most commonly identified.

On the other hand, in the border town of El Amatillo, key informants identified that there are LGBTIQ + people and those between 6 and 17 years of age entering irregularly, and to a lesser number there are children under 5 years of age and people with disabilities. This particularity is also reflected in the Las Chinamas border. In La Hachadura and El Poy, only accompanied persons between 6 and 17 years of age were identified. It is important to note that there was no report of pregnant women or internally displaced persons entering irregularly through the points studied.



OUTGOING MIGRATION FLOW

Monthly estimate of irregular outgoing migration flow by month and border crossing location of interest (2020)



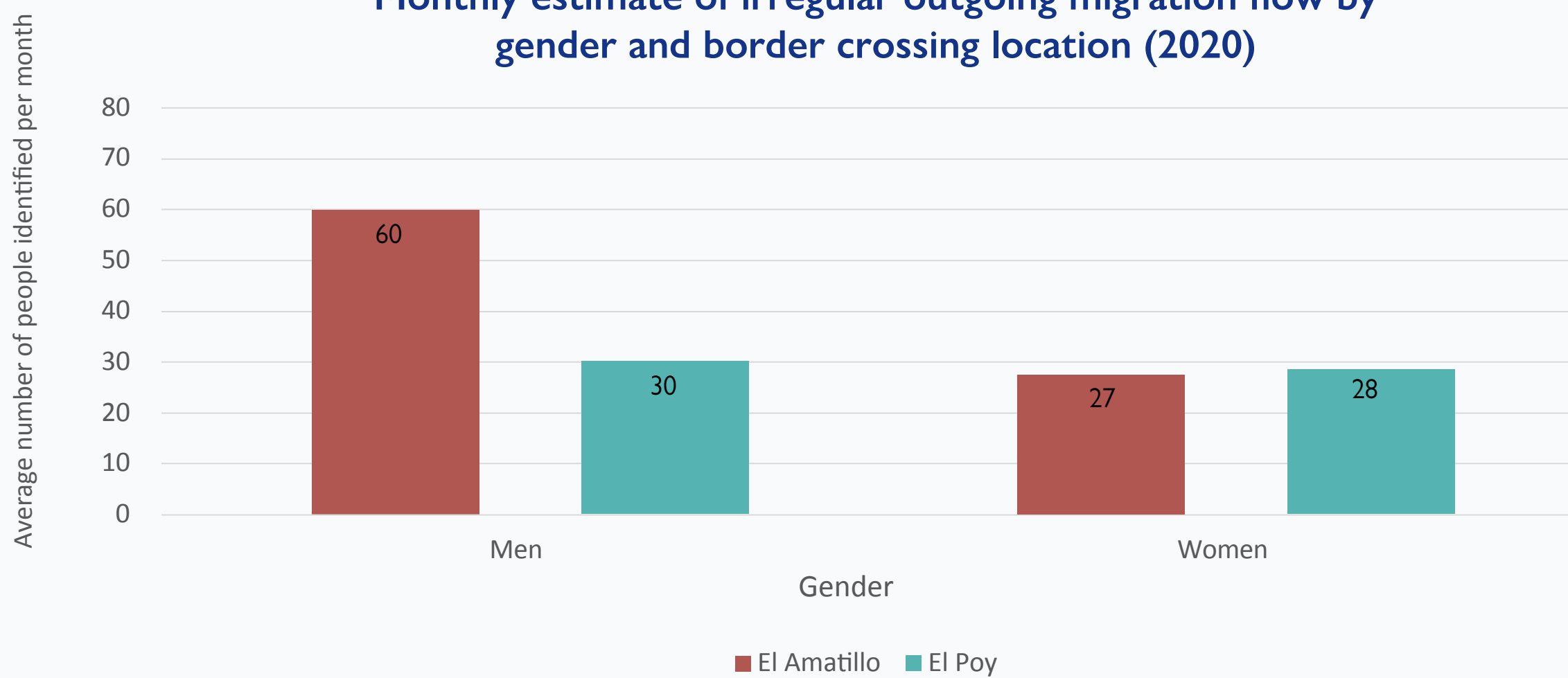
Source: Key informants consulted.

In relation to the outgoing migration flow, no information was obtained on the departure of people from Anguiatú, La Hachadura, San Cristóbal and Las Chinamas.

For El Poy, irregular monthly outflows between 50 and 60 people are maintained from September to November, a greater outgoing flow of people was identified in October at this point.

In the case of the border town of El Amatillo, no outgoing flow was identified during September. However, for October and November it is estimated that at least 74 people per month left this town irregularly.

Monthly estimate of irregular outgoing migration flow by gender and border crossing location (2020)



Source: Key informants consulted.

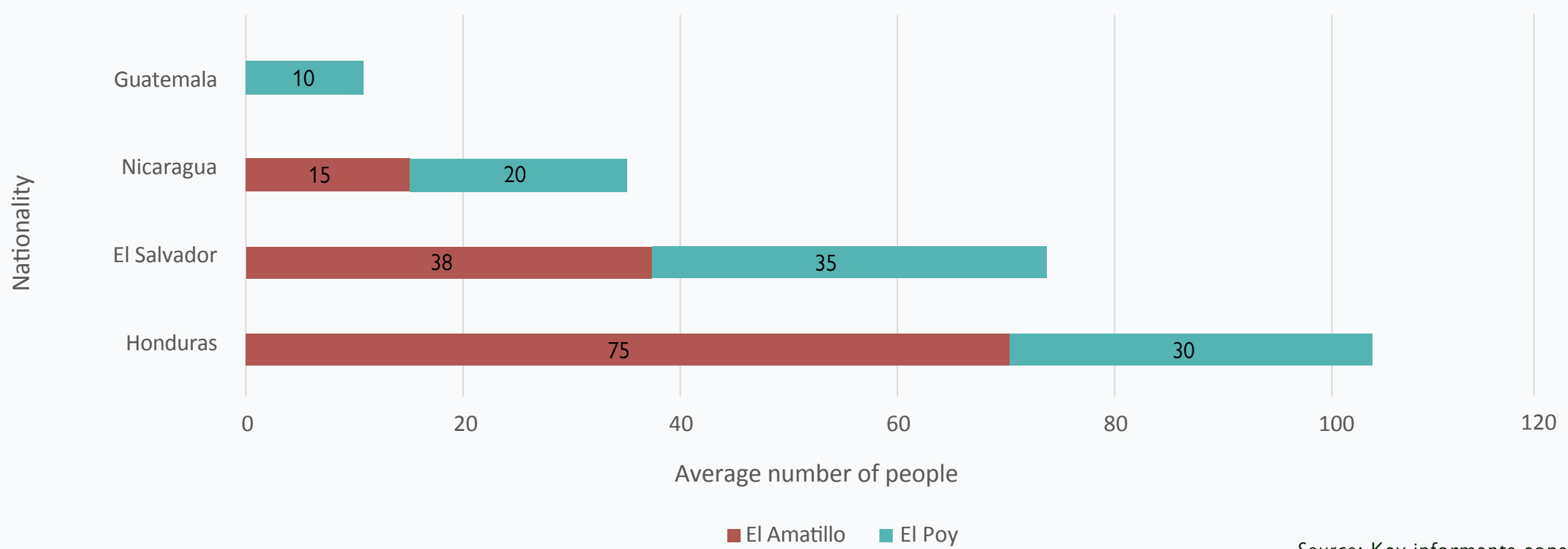
Regarding the composition of the migration flow by gender, it is estimated that 62% of the people who leave El Salvador irregularly through the borders of El Amatillo and El Poy are men. In the case of El Poy border, the relationship is equal, and it is estimated that out of every 10 people, half are women.

There are no data on irregular migration flows in the border towns of Anguiatú, La Hachadura, Las Chinamas and San Cristóbal, where no irregular outgoing flows of people were identified.



OUTGOING MIGRATION FLOW

Main nationalities reported by key informants in the irregular outgoing migration flow by border crossing point (2020)



Source: Key informants consulted.

Regarding the nationalities detected in the outgoing migration flow, at least 54% of the people are from Honduras, 31% are from Nicaragua and 15% from El Salvador.

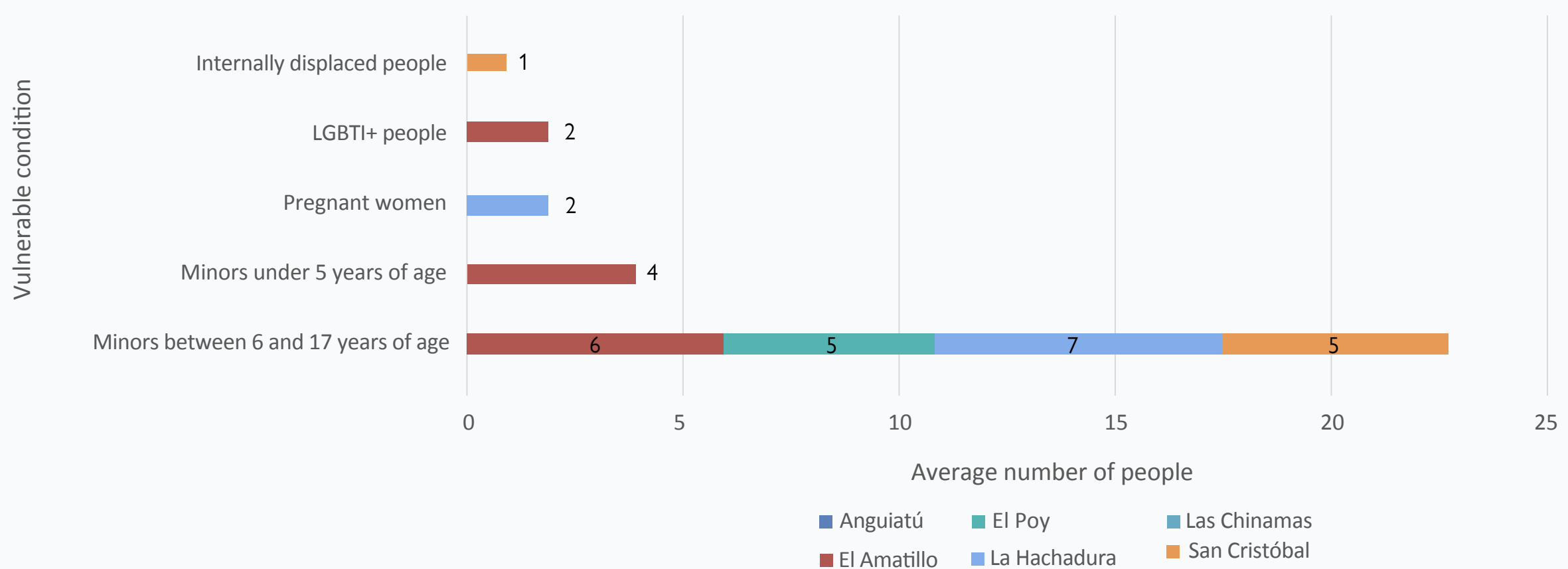
By border crossing point, key informants identified people from El Salvador and Nicaragua in equal proportions in El Poy and El Amatillo.

However, for people from Honduras, they determined a greater presence in El Amatillo, of almost 75 people estimated per month, this is associated with a cross-border dynamic related to trade and access to

services in this town.

It is important to mention that, based on key informants, the economic impacts caused by sanitary restrictions on commercial activities due to the COVID-19 pandemic, have motivated people to emigrate from their country of origin in search of better opportunities.

Monthly estimate of people identified in the irregular outgoing migration flow under vulnerable conditions by border crossing points (2020)



Source: Key informants consulted.

Regarding people with a vulnerable condition, limitations persist in the field to identify differentiated profiles, mainly associated with the migration dynamics that occur at the borders.

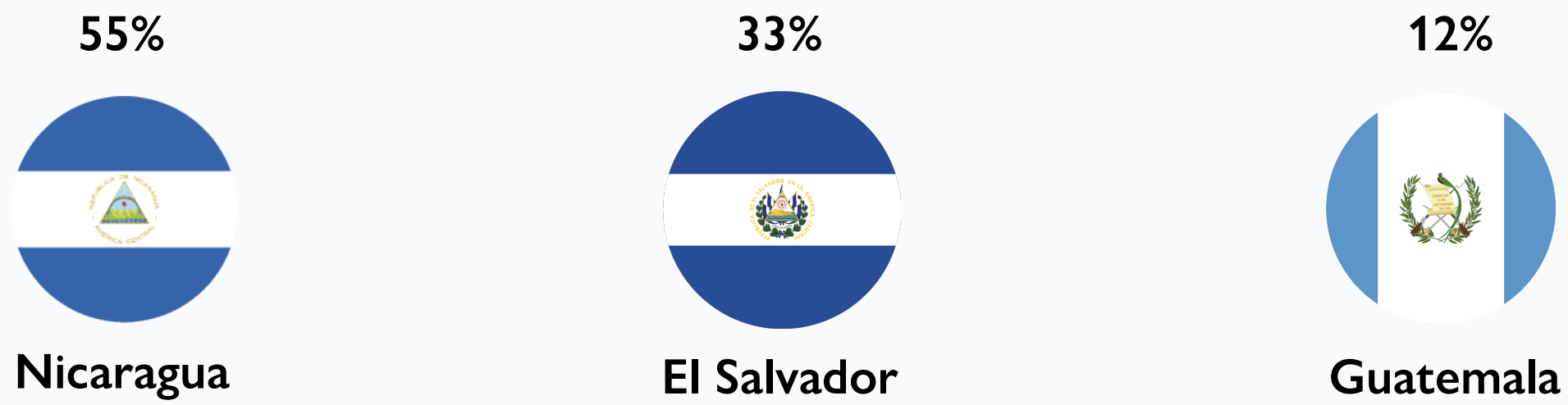
Accompanied minors between 6 and 17 years were identified in four border towns, in El Amatillo, El Poy, La Hachadura and San Cristóbal. In El Amatillo, key informants identified minors under 5 years of age as part of this group. In addition, they identified LGBTIQ + people, to a lesser extent.

In La Hachadura, at least two pregnant women were identified as part of the irregular migration outgoing flow. And in San Cristóbal at least one internally displaced person was identified as part of the same cross-border dynamic, these people are associated with gender-based violence and civil conflicts by gangs, generally requiring international protection, although it is unknown if they managed to be referenced to specialized institutions.



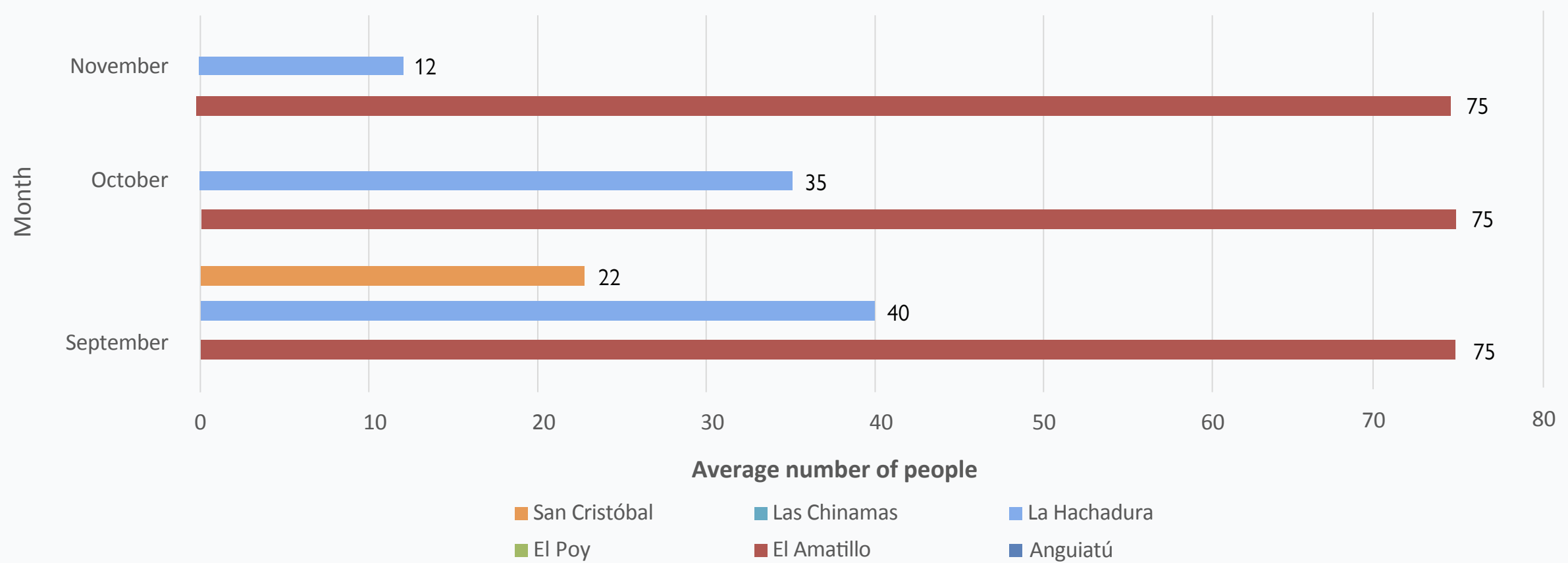
MIGRANT POPULATION STRANDED ALONG THE BORDERS

In the towns of El Amatillo, La Hachadura and San Cristóbal, groups of migrants were found stranded at the borders, 55% from Nicaragua, 33% from El Salvador and 12% from Honduras.



In El Amatillo, at least 75 people are estimated to be stranded monthly, for La Hachadura 30 people and for San Cristóbal more than 20 people were estimated, but only during September. On differentiated profiles, there was no identification of people in vulnerable conditions by the key informants. It is estimated that 56% of stranded people reside in borrowed homes and 44% in rented homes.

Estimated number of stranded migrants per month and border crossing point (2020)



Source: Key informants consulted.

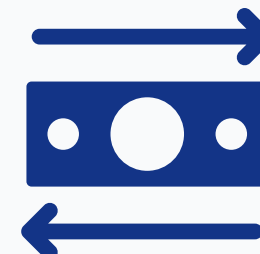
Lodging situation

Borrowed Lodging



58%

Rented Lodging



42%

The main reason why migrants are stranded at the border is due to the lack of documentation, which highlights the lack of PCR tests to determine the SARS-CoV-2 virus. This lack is also due to the fact that the office hours where these tests are processed do not cover continuous working hours.

On the other hand, migrants stranded on the Salvadoran borders maintain a good and neutral relationship with the host communities, mainly because they are housed with relatives maintaining good interpersonal relationships; resulting in no altercations with them or with the authorities in the last three months.

According to key informants, the migrants stranded in La Hachadura have been supported by the Evangelical Church, but there is no information on the type of support received.



CONCLUSIONS



The incoming flow to El Salvador mostly occurs in the border communities of El Amatillo and El Poy, it is interpreted as a flow of labor mobility, with the presence of people from Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, promoted by the search for better economic and employment opportunities.



This influx of people has been constant from September to November. It is represented mostly by men, and accompanied minors are highlighted as the most detected differentiated profiles. In addition, in these areas access to different commercial and employability services for the migrant population is facilitated.



The outgoing flow was concentrated in the months of October and November for the town of El Amatillo and steadily since September in the town of El Poy. The greater number of men leaving stands out, mainly from Honduras and Nicaragua due to the informal labor dynamics present in the area. In addition, there is the outstanding presence of people between 6 and 17 years of age accompanied leaving these points irregularly.



The stranded migrants were identified at the El Amatillo border, at La Hachadura and at San Cristóbal. The main reason why these people must pause their trip is because they must wait for the PCR test for the SARS-CoV-2 virus.



Most stranded people stay in borrowed and rented homes and maintain a good relationship with the authorities and the community. However, the presence of institutions for the assistance of these people was not identified, nor the forms of support of other civil society groups such as the evangelical church.



The limitations of key informants to identify profiles in vulnerable condition are highlighted, especially for suspected cases of SARS-CoV-2.



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