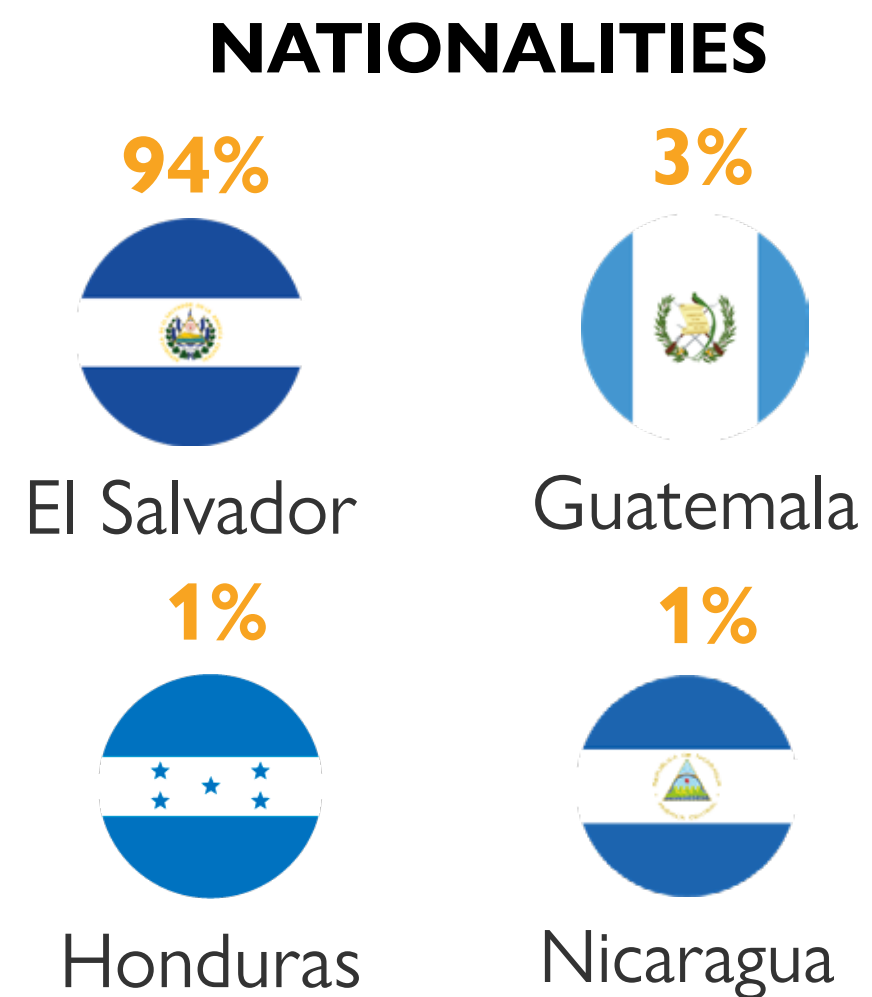
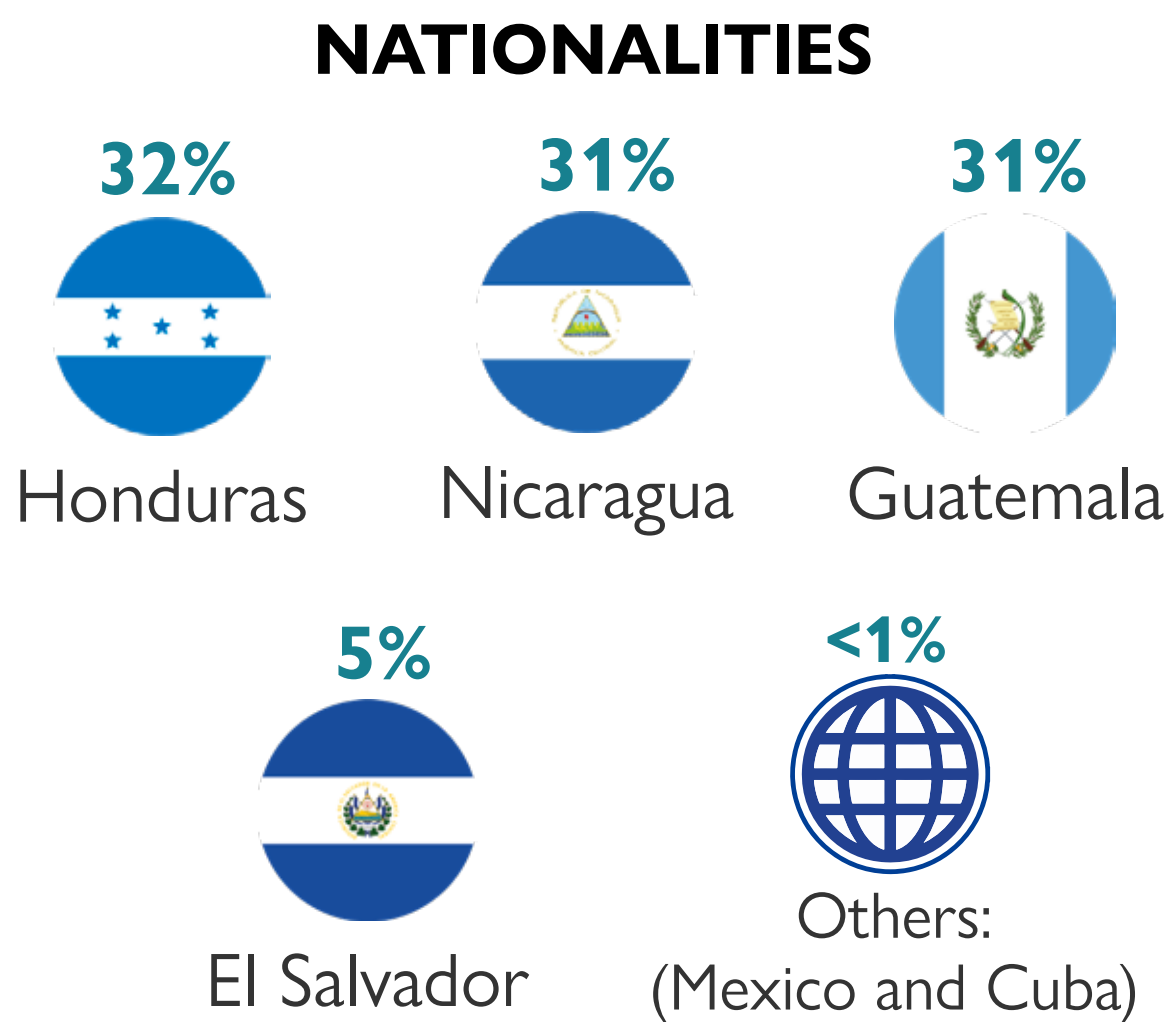
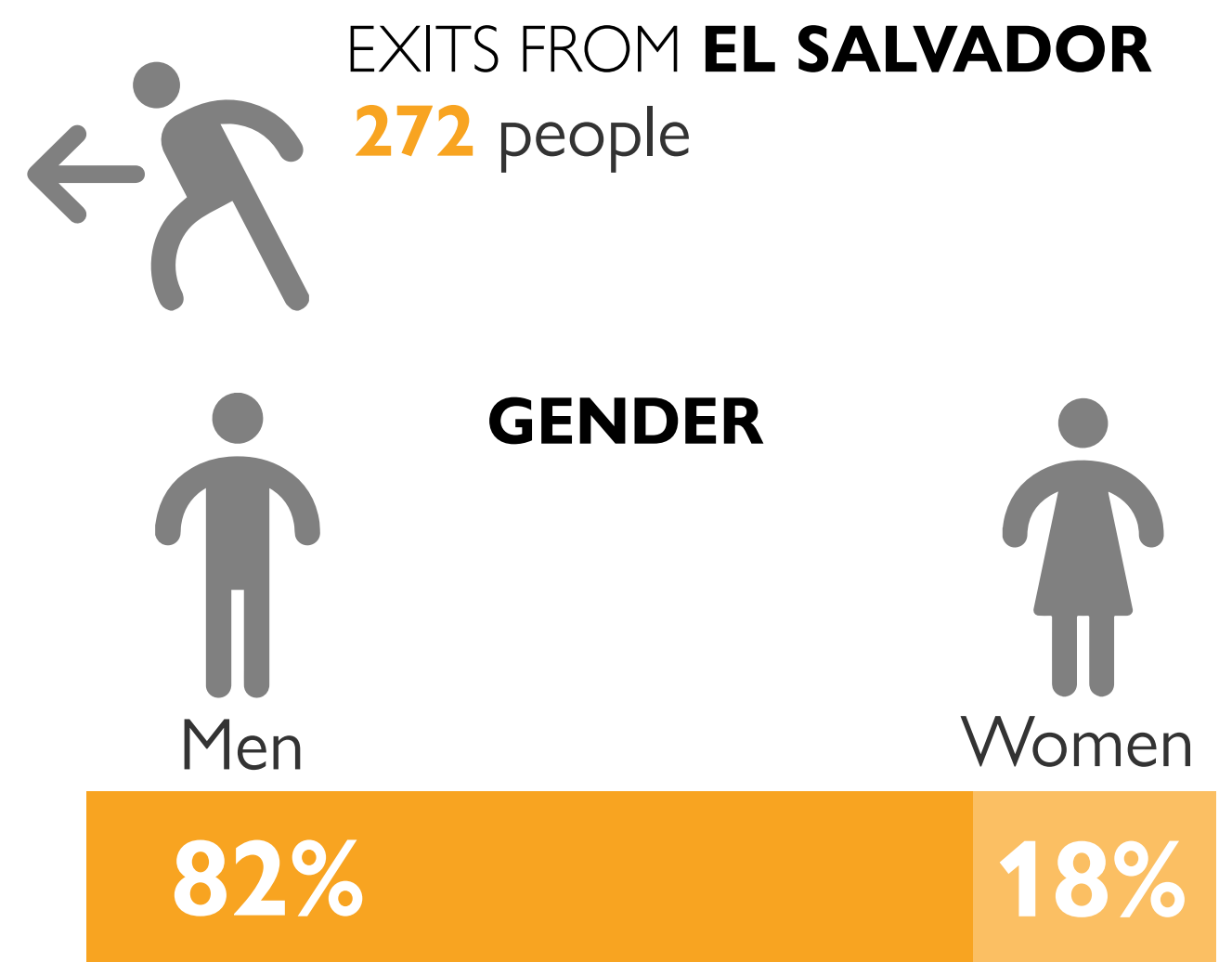
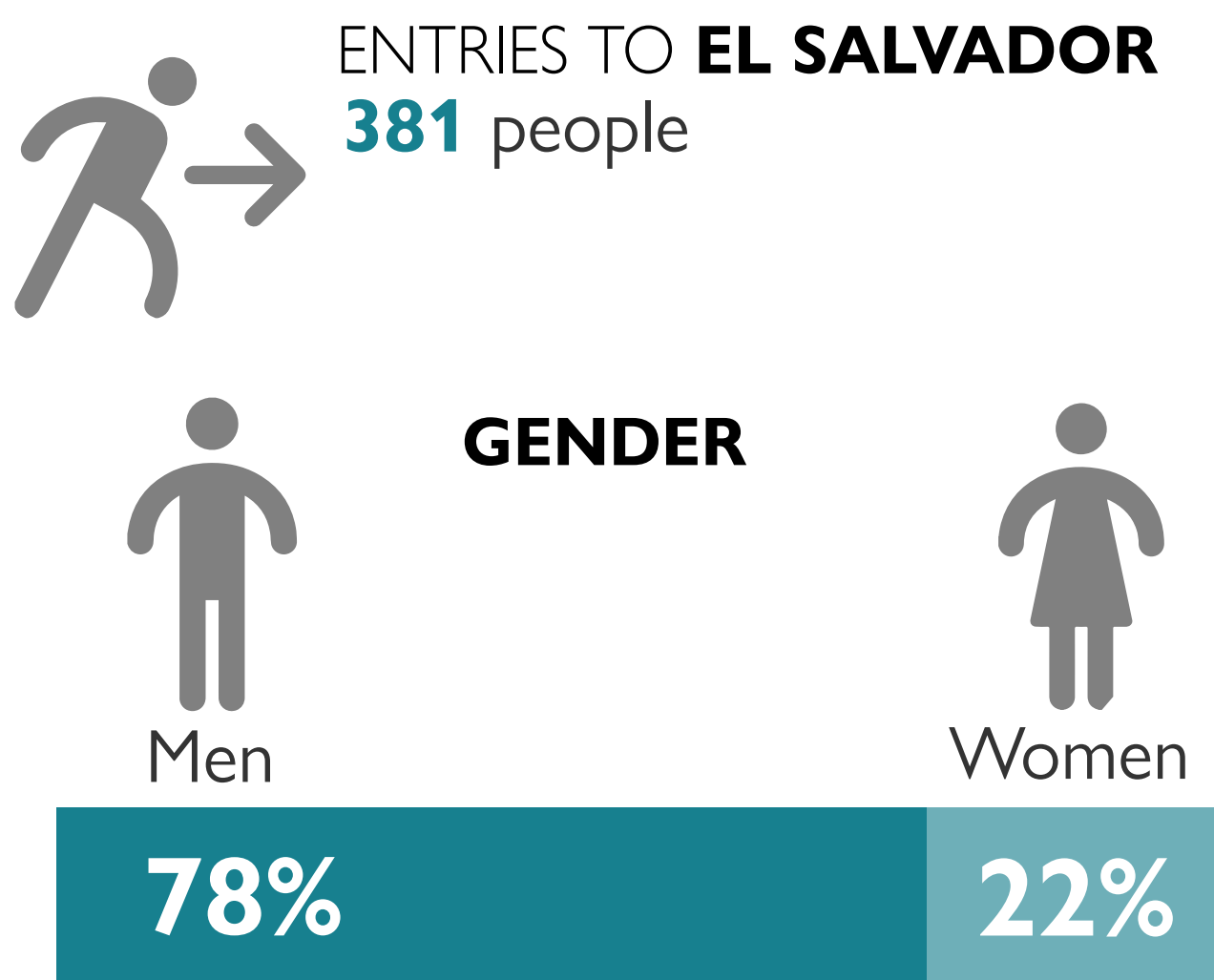


## HIGHLIGHTS

### 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 did not identify any stranded persons.

## Sources: 19 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. Information from the following sources was used: General Office of Migration and Immigration (DGME); National Civil Police Force (PNC); International Health Office (OSI); San Miguel Protection Board; and the National Children and Adolescents Protection Board (CONNA). The interviews were conducted in May 2021.

The data collected are either the result of systematic records of field observations or migration control actions or reflect the perception of the interviewed key informants. In both cases, the estimates could be biased due to the difficulty to estimate irregular migration flows that have not been recorded by the relevant authorities. In addition, significant discrepancies exist between the estimates of the population flows provided by the different key informants, both in quantitative and qualitative terms, and the available information does not enable judging the quality of the information provided. Therefore, the results from this report are general approximations of the situation.

## LOCATION

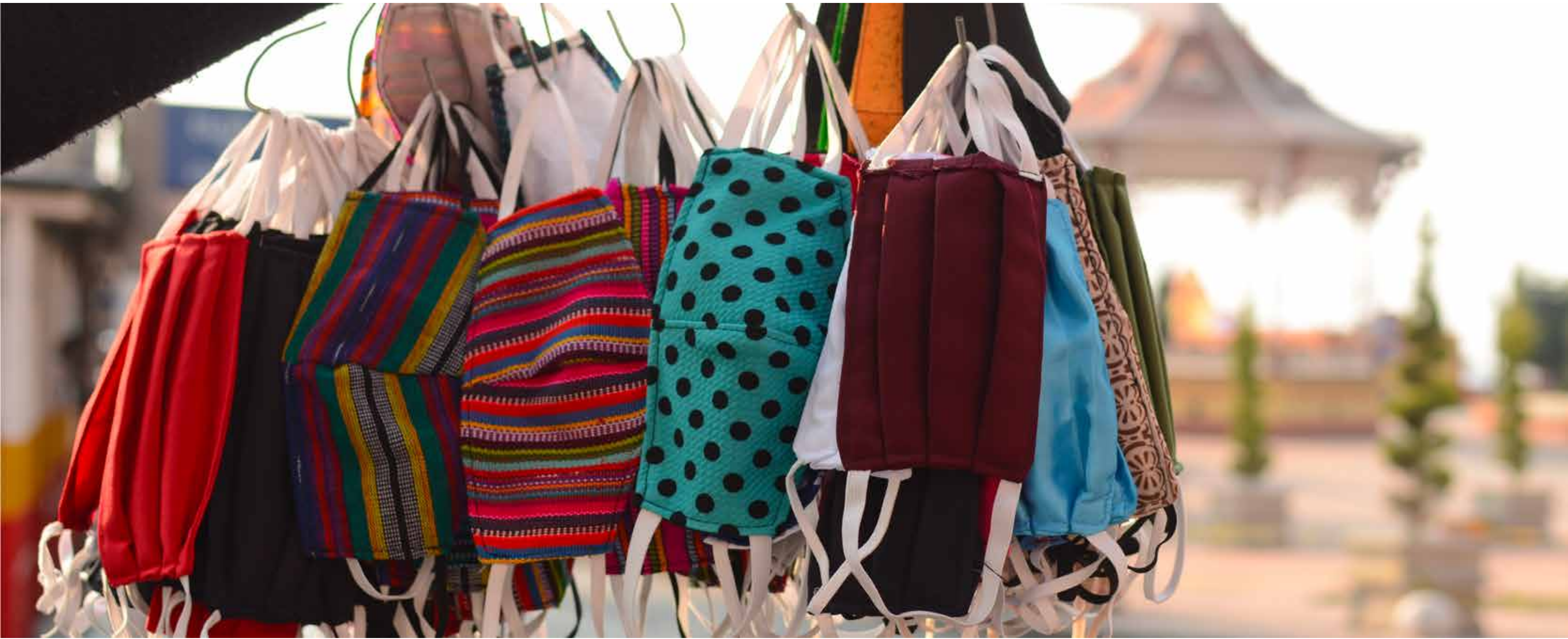
### EI SALVADOR



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.





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



In El Salvador, the border patrols of the border security division of the National Civil Police Force (PNC) implemented the “Traveller’s Plan” in April, with the main objective of conducting inspections in various hotels to verify if the foreign nationals staying at the hotels have regular migration status in El Salvador and in addition, to identify potential cases of migrant smuggling and trafficking.



In April 2021, the General Office of Migration and Immigration (DGME) updated the health provisions for the entry of migrants to the country. Two categories were established:

- Individuals who have not been vaccinated against COVID-19 must submit a negative COVID-19 viral test result (PCR, NAAT or LAMP) issued a maximum of 72 hours prior to entry.
- Individuals who have been vaccinated against COVID-19 must submit the original vaccination record certifying compliance with the complete doses of the vaccine. Individuals who have only received one of the two doses must submit a negative COVID-19 viral test result issued a maximum of 72 hours prior to arrival or entry.



The change in the US administration has generated expectations in the country, particularly regarding the reunification of boys, girls and adolescents with their families. However, in April Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador announced the strengthening of the country’s strategy against irregular migration flows from Central America (mainly from Guatemala, Honduras y El Salvador).

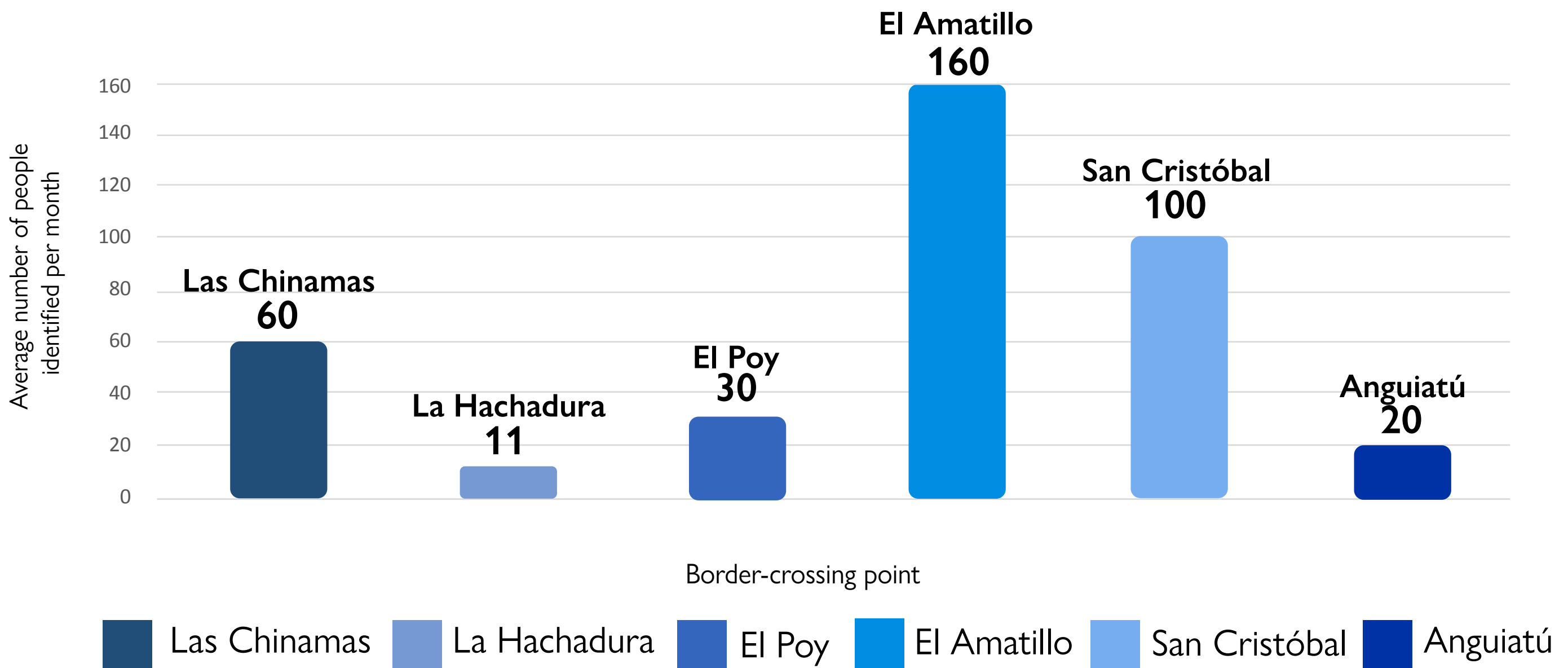


In April, the State Department’s special envoy visited El Salvador to meet with representatives of the Northern Triangle countries of Central America, with the objective of coordinating efforts and identifying comprehensive solutions to address the main causes of migration, and particularly irregular migration, and to expand the humanitarian efforts to enable access to protection for persons in vulnerable situations.



# INCOMING MIGRATION FLOWS

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



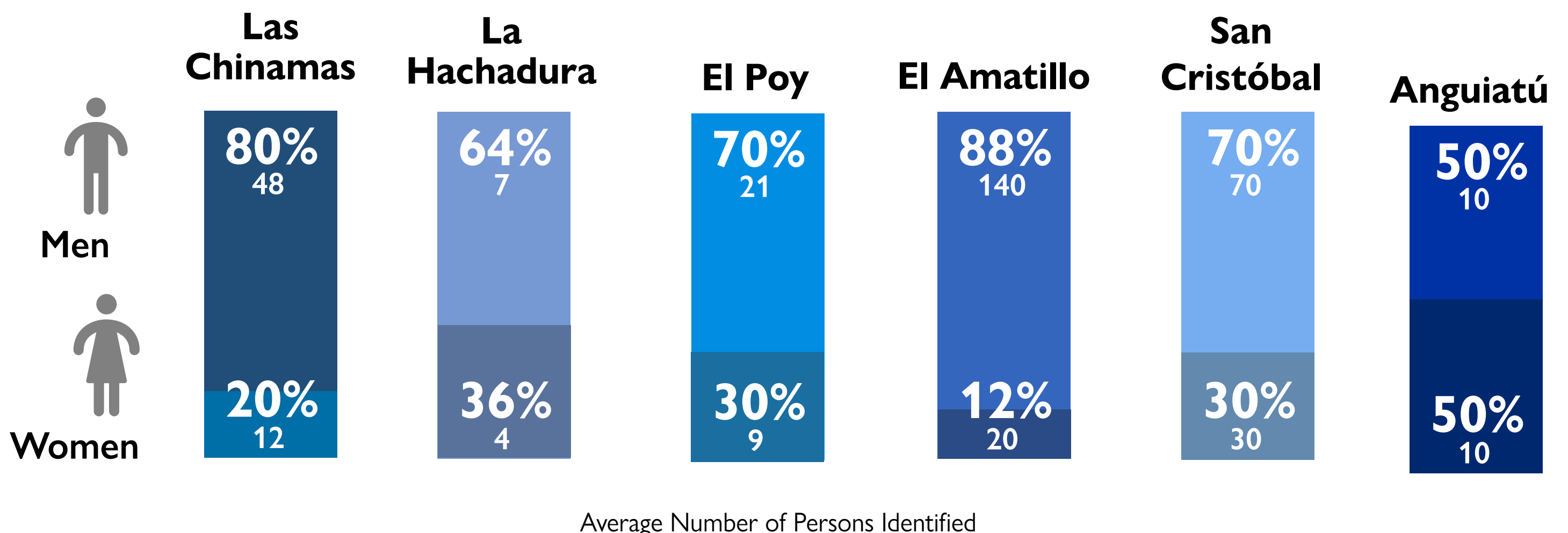
Source: Key informants.

Regarding the migration flows entering the country, the data provided by the key informants showed that the El Amatillo border crossing was the main point of entry in April, with 160 entries. In addition, 100 persons entered the country through San Cristobal and 60 through Las Chinamas. In the three other border crossings, no more than 30 persons entered the country.

Furthermore, 78% 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.

However, specific cases of senior citizens and LGTBIQ+ populations were identified. In addition, boys, girls and adolescents are the most represented category of persons in vulnerable situations – 15 persons, thus accounting for at least 4% of the migrants.

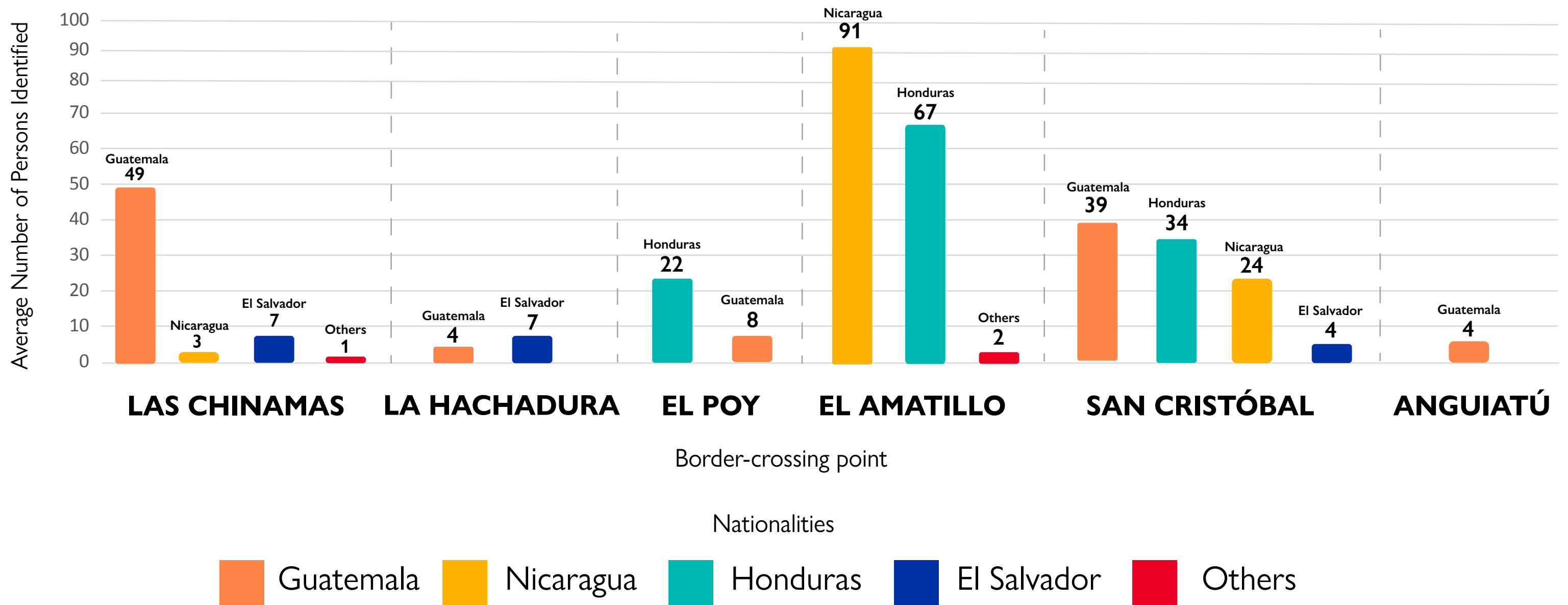
Monthly approximation of persons entering irregularly , by Gender and Border Crossing (April 2021)



Source: Key informants.

# INCOMING MIGRATION FLOWS

## Monthly approximation of persons entering irregularly by Nationality and Border Crossing (March 2021)



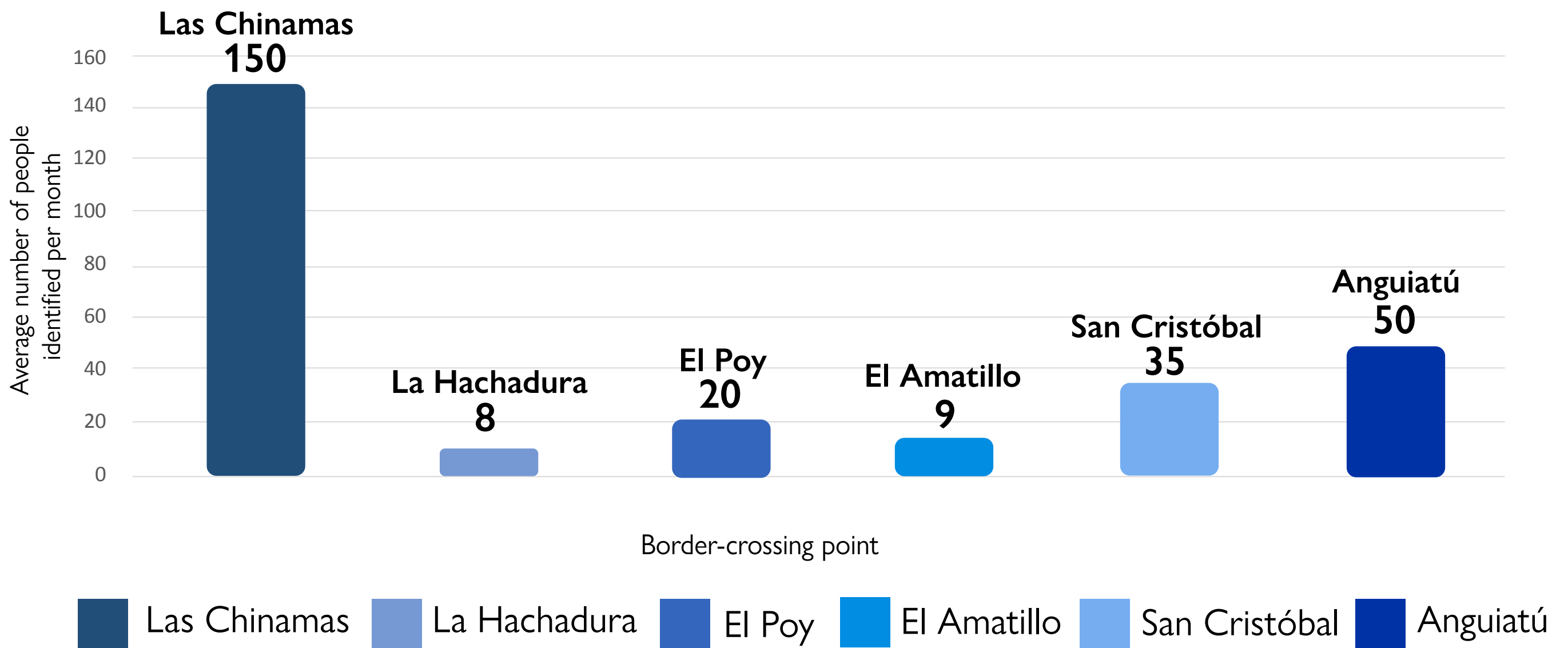
Source: Key informants.

The flow of migrants entering the country included equal numbers of individuals of three nationalities: Nicaragua, Guatemala and Honduras. Guatemalans enter the country mainly through the Las Chinamas and San Cristobal border crossings and, to a lesser degree, through Anguiatú. Nicaraguans use the border crossing of El Amatillo and, to a lesser degree, San Cristóbal. And the majority of Honduran nationals enter the country through El Amatillo and El Poy. In addition, two extra-regional migrants of Cuban origin were identified entering through El Amatillo.

Regarding the reasons for migration, family reunification within El Salvador and the need for health care in the country's hospital network were highlighted, as well as the improvement of their economic conditions, and labor migration for agricultural work.

# OUTGOING MIGRATION FLOWS

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



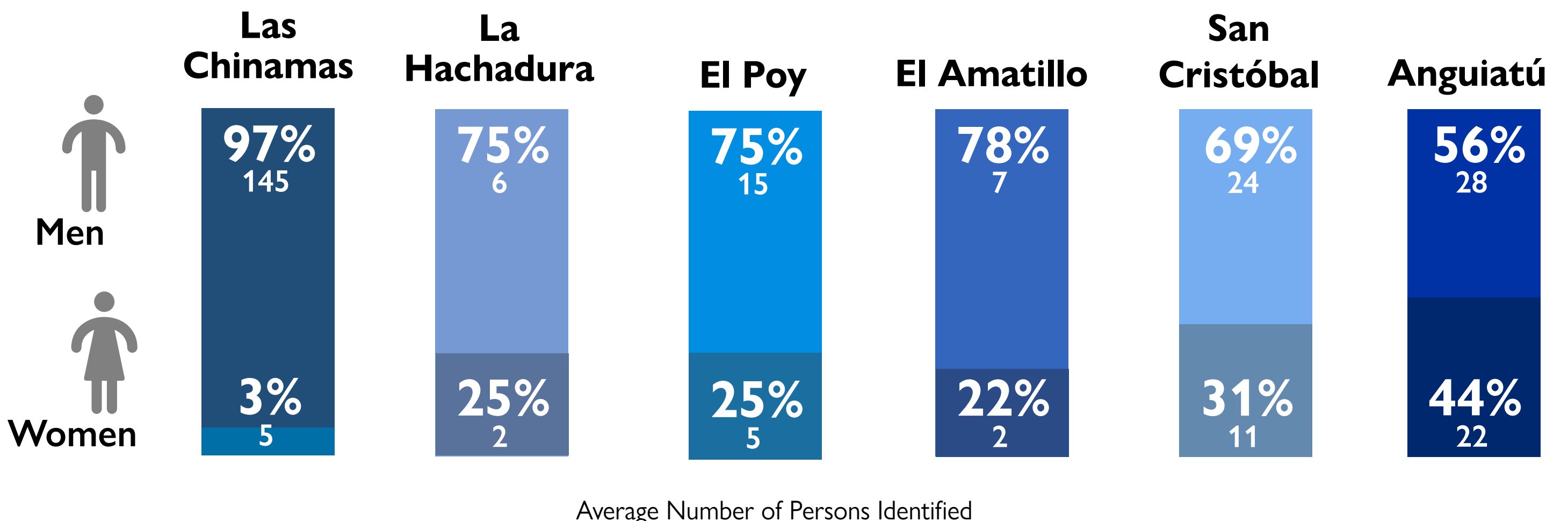
Source: Key informants and Secondary Sources Consulted.

The data provided by the key informants about the different border crossings show that 150 persons left the country through the border crossing of Las Chinamas and less than 50 migrants left through each of the other border crossings.

Regarding the composition of the migration flows by gender, 8% of the persons exiting El Salvador are men. However, for Las Chinamas this percentage reaches 95%. In addition, the key informants identified that the majority of migrants (that is, more than 70%) travel in groups of 2-7 persons.

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. Boys, girls and adolescents are the largest category of persons in vulnerable situations - 45 persons, thus accounting for at least 17% of the migrants.

Monthly approximation of persons leaving irregularly, by Gender and Border Crossing (April 2021)



Source: Key informants.

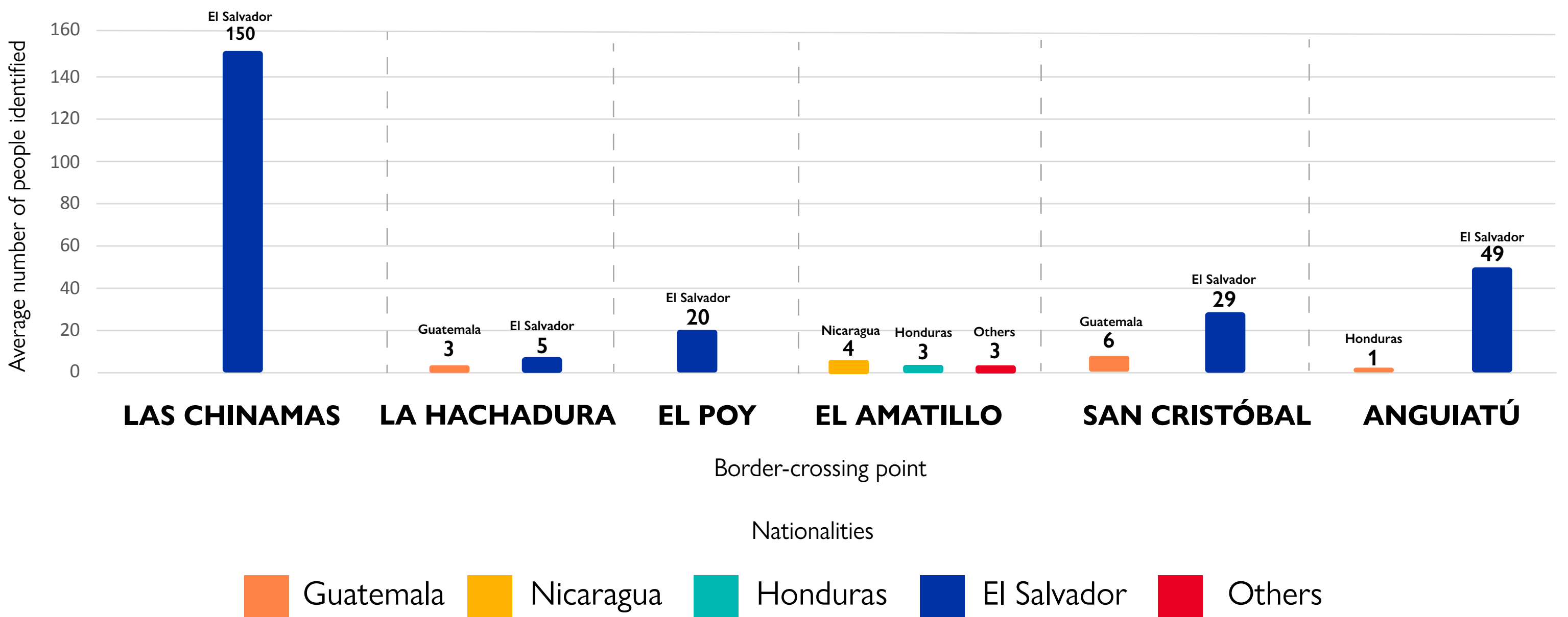


# OUTGOING MIGRATION FLOWS



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

## Monthly approximation of persons leaving irregularly by Nationality and Border Crossing (March 2021)



Source: Key informants and Secondary Sources Consulted.

Furthermore, 94% of the persons leaving El Salvador in an irregular manner are Salvadoran nationals. They use mainly the border crossing of Las Chinamas, and to a lesser degree, the border crossings of Anguiatú, San Cristóbal and El Poy.



## CONCLUSIONS



The border crossings of El Amatillo and San Cristóbal were the main points of entry in April, with 160 and 100 persons, respectively. Less than 100 persons left the country through the four other border crossings. The persons were Hondurans, Guatemalans and Nicaraguans.



A significant number of migrants exited the country through Las Chinamas border crossing – 150 persons. In addition, exit flows of less than 60 persons each month were identified for each of the other border crossings.



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, the key informants mentioned cases of migrant smuggling.



Due to the requirement of submitting a negative RT PCR test and the high cost of the test, irregular migration has increased, according to the key informants.



Discrepancies exist between the estimates of the different key informants regarding the nationality of migrants. This could mean that the estimates included in this report are underestimated.



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

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