

Period: June-August 2020

Location: Anguiatú, El Amatillo, El Poy, La Hachadura, Las Chinamas and San Cristóbal.

Sources: 27 interviews with key informants

▶ Highlights

IRREGULAR MIGRATION FLOW



Incomings:
9 people in average per day

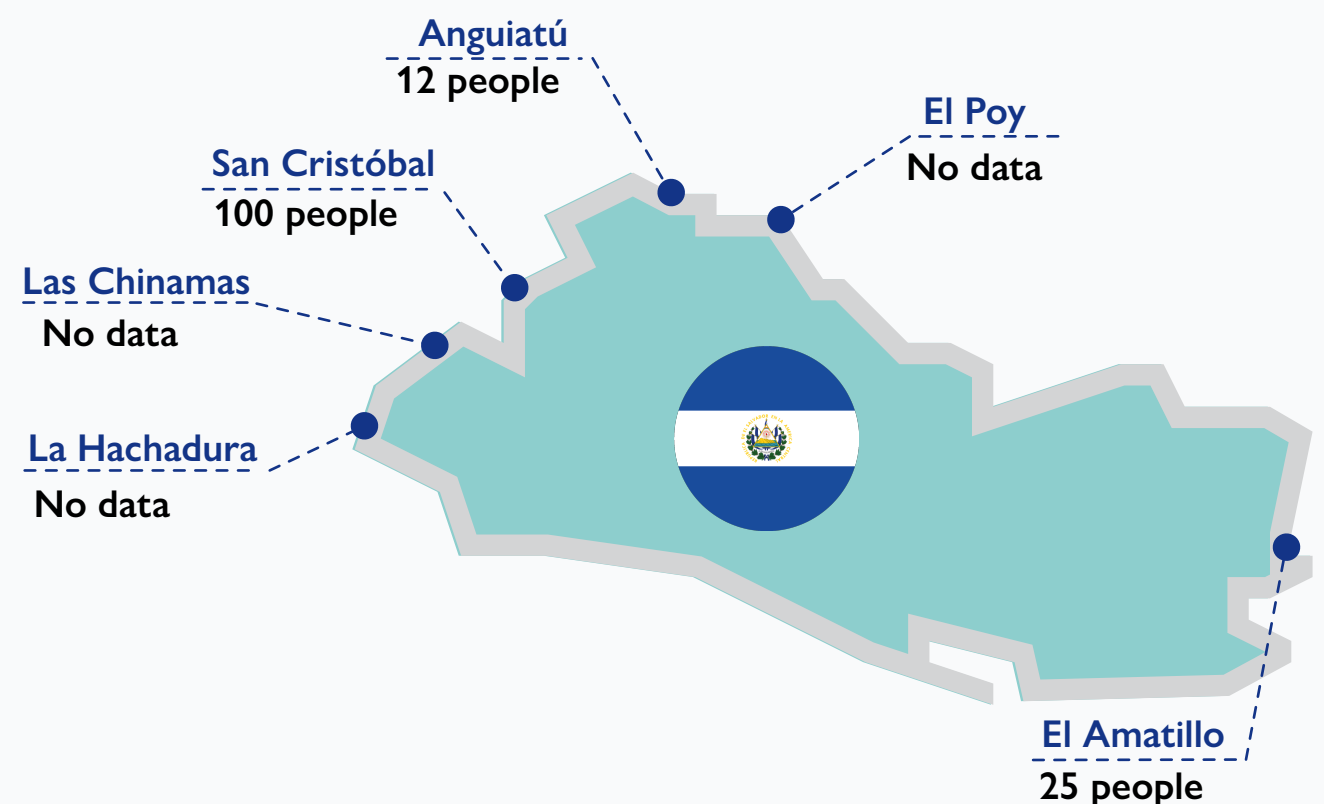


Outcomings:
5 people in average per day



Men (the majority)

STRANDED POPULATION



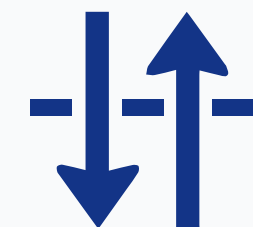
CONTEXT



Red Alert was declared throughout the country, and then the country's international airports, seaports, and overland border stations were closed.



As of 31 August 2020, a total of 25,820 cases of COVID-19 had been recorded, along with a total of 708 deaths.

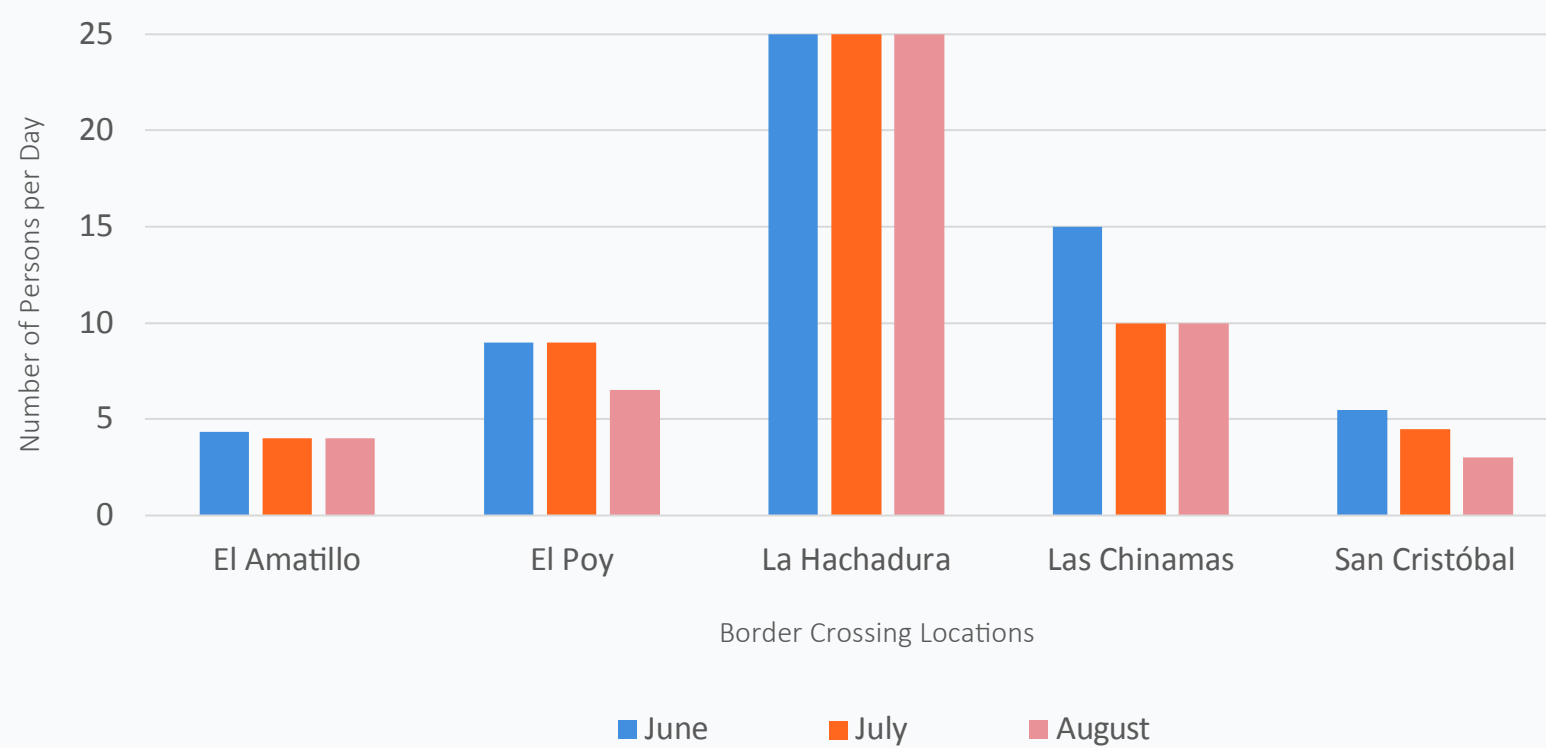


Only Salvadoran nationals, naturalized foreigners, and diplomats were allowed to enter El Salvador, but required to observe a 30-day quarantine, without exceptions nor privileges.



INCOMING MIGRATORY FLOW

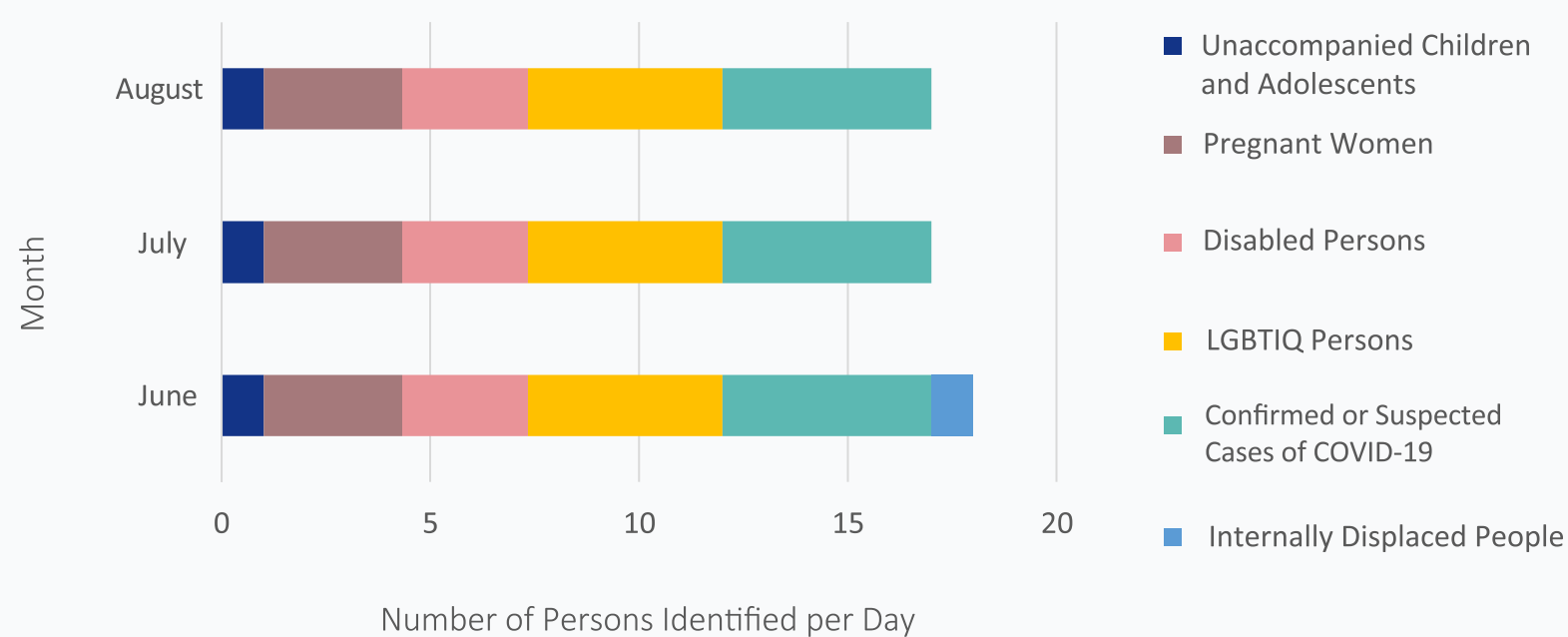
Average Daily Number of Persons with Irregular Status Entering, by Month and Border Crossing Location



Source: Key Informants

As part of the flows entering El Salvador, the irregular entry of an average of **nine persons per day** has been detected. This flow is comprised primarily of **men**. The crossing points along the Guatemalan border are the ones that show the greatest movement with respect to entries into Salvadoran territory. **La Hachadura border crossing** is the one with the highest and most constant, with an average of **25 persons with irregular status crossing every day**.

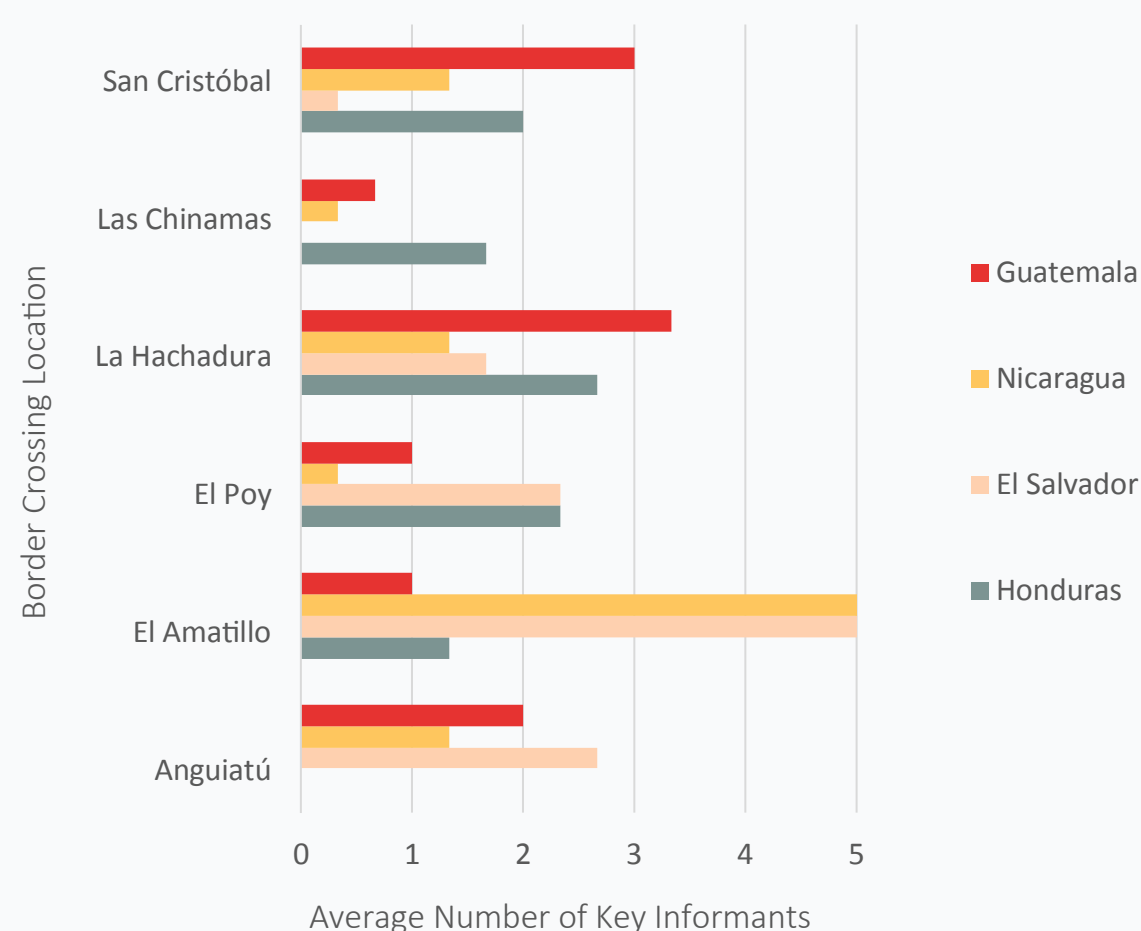
Migrants in Vulnerable Conditions that Comprise the Incoming Migratory Flow at La Hachadura



Source: Key Informants

Salvadoran, Honduran, Nicaraguan, and Guatemalan nationals comprise the incoming migratory flow. Salvadoran nationals comprise the north-south migratory flow, being migrants returning with irregular status. The reasons given by these persons for choosing irregularity are related to the need to evade the border controls implemented in the context of the Pandemic, consisting primarily of the **mandatory minimum 15-day quarantine either at home or in shelters**.

Principal Nationalities Detected among the Irregular Migratory Flow Entering El Salvador, by Border Crossing Location

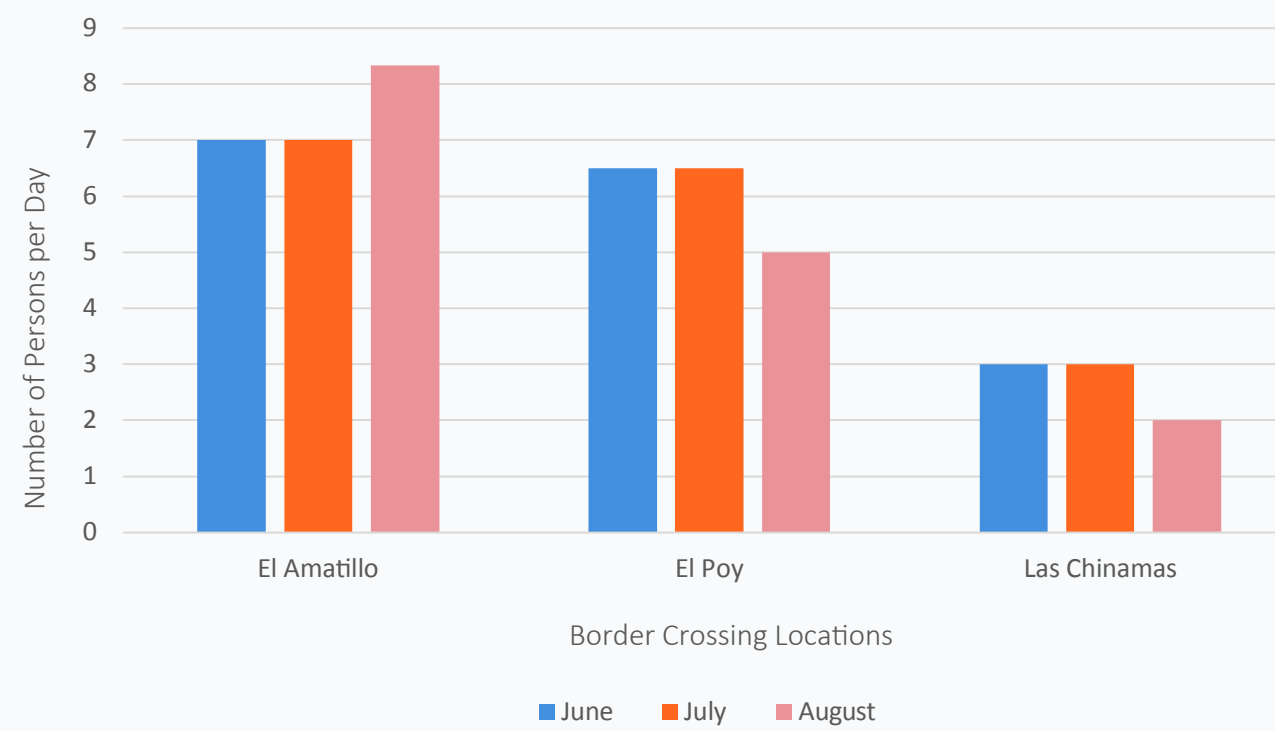


Source: Key Informants



OUTGOING MIGRATORY FLOW

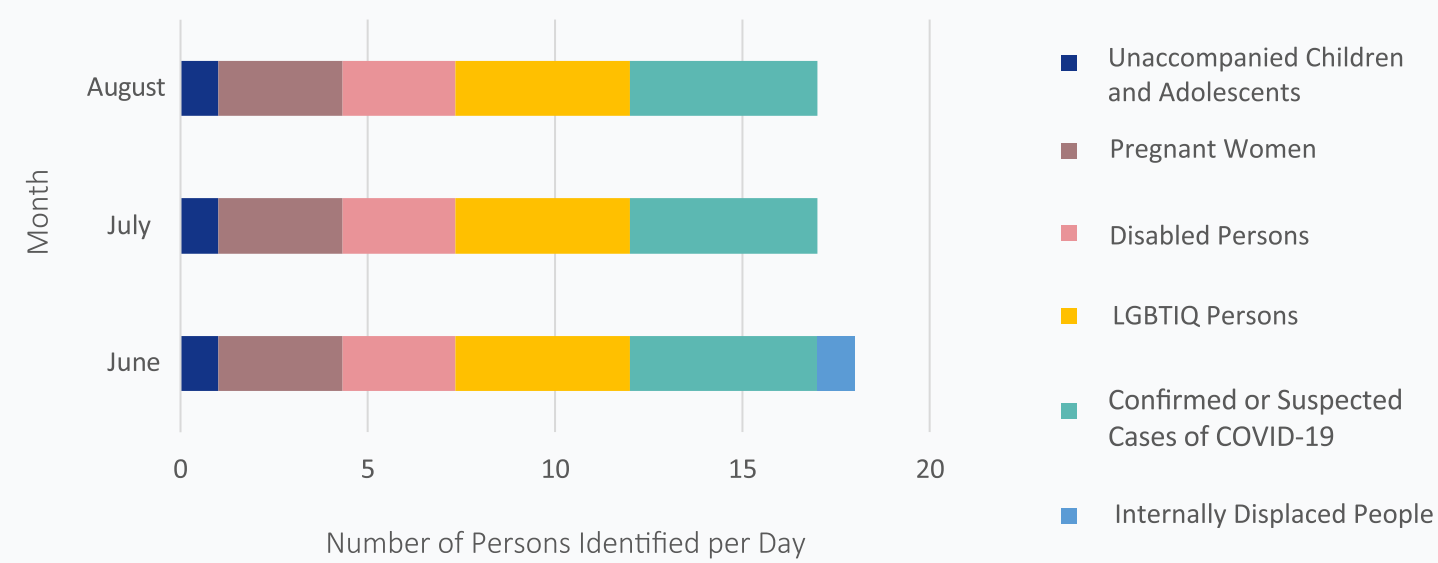
Average Daily Number of Persons with Irregular Status Exiting, by Month and Border Crossing Location



Source: Key Informants

The trend indicating an increase in the number of persons migrating across the **El Amatillo border into Honduras in August is notable**. This situation is not seen at the other locations, and thus reflects a greater number of persons who are returning in an irregular manner. It is estimated that around **five persons exit** across these borders daily on average, where the migratory flow is comprised of men.

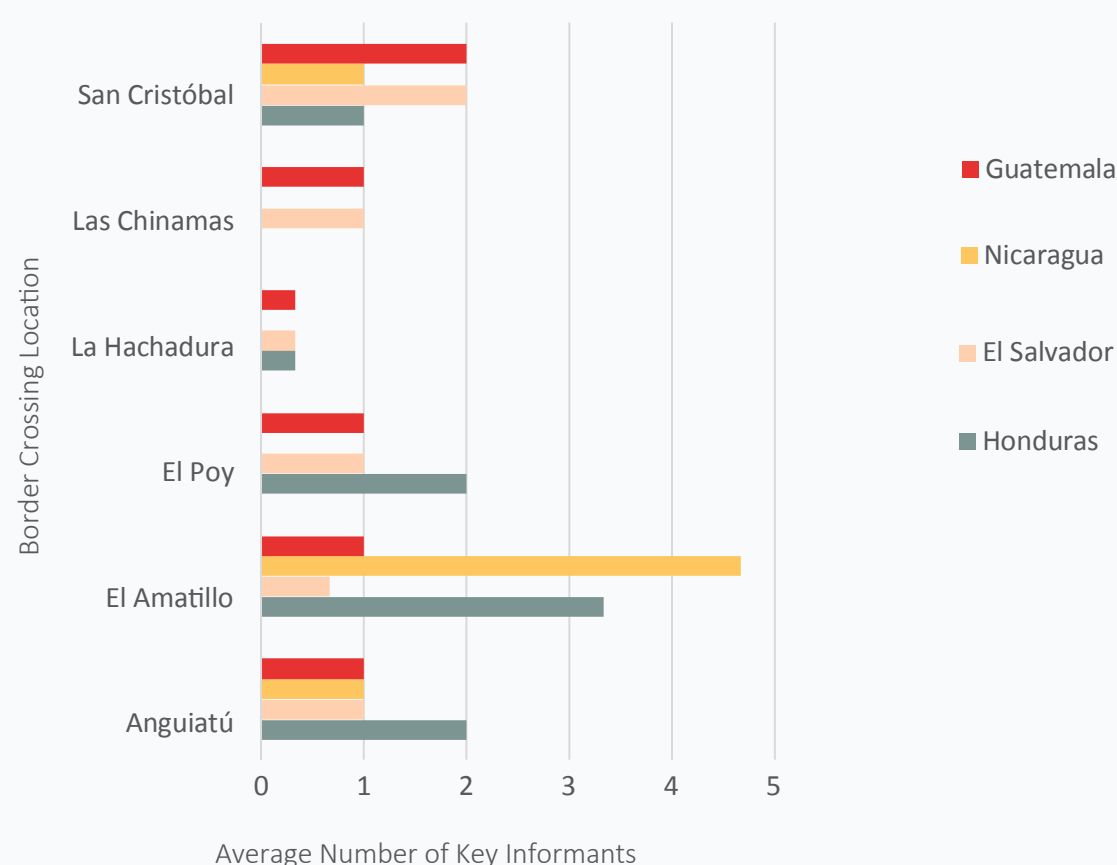
Migrants in Vulnerable Conditions among the Outgoing Migratory Flow at Las Chinamas



Source: Key Informants

The main nationalities identified among the outgoing migratory flow are **Nicaraguan, Honduran, Salvadoran, and Guatemalan**. Nicaraguans are found in the migratory flow that crosses the border at El Amatillo, for which reason it is deemed that most of this population is **returning to its country of origin**. Likewise, in the case of the El Poy and El Amatillo border crossing points, **Honduran nationals** maintain a high representation among the outgoing flows.

Principal Nationalities Detected among the Irregular Migratory Flow Leaving El Salvador, by Border Crossing Location



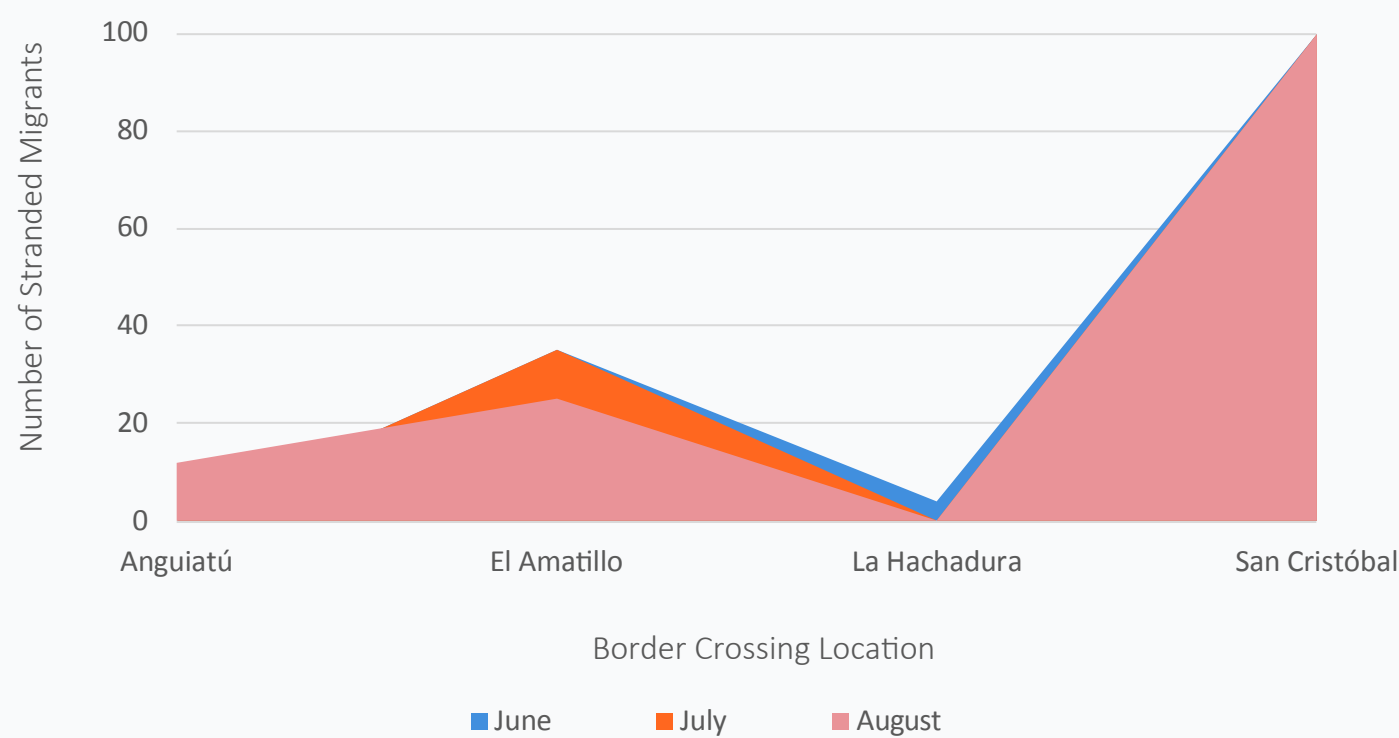
Source: Key Informants



MIGRANT POPULATION STRANDED ALONG THE BORDERS

There is no exact count of the migrants who have been stranded at all the crossing points, but significant groups of migrants have been identified at **Anguiatú, El Amatillo, and San Cristóbal**. During this study, there were **still migrants waiting** to continue their journey.

Stranded Migrant Population, by Border Crossing Location



Source: Key Informants

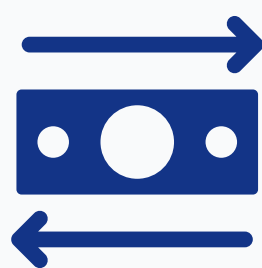
Habitability Condition



Without Lodging



Civil Society Shelter



Rented Dwelling

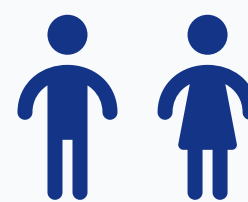


Hotel/ Boarding House



Borrowed Dwelling

Persons in Vulnerable Conditions



Minors



Pregnant women



LGBTIQ

Nationalities



Honduras



Guatemala



Nicaragua



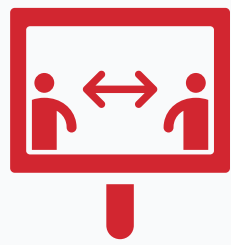
GENERAL PUBLIC HEALTH GUIDELINES



Verbal Communication



Informational Brochures



Posters / Flyers / Pamphlets



Roadside Billboards

It is assumed that migrants who cross borders in an irregular manner are aware of **what to do** in the event they develop symptoms. This reality is subject, however, to the willingness of migrants to obtain information from institutional sources, and **thus leaves out those who do not do so.**

As part of the measures implemented by the Government of El Salvador for surveillance and control of the unauthorized border crossing points in the context of the COVID-19 Pandemic, **a specialized unit of the National Civil Police has been maintained together with the Army.** Since the border control effort is aimed at detecting criminal activity, at times **no health controls** are applied to the migrants who are caught when attempting to enter El Salvador irregularly.

Border Crossing Location	Use of digital thermometers to monitor body temperature	Issuance of Health Declarations	Supply of face masks for suspected COVID-19 carriers and their companions
Anguiatú	✓	✓	✓
El Amatillo	✓	✓	✓
El Poy	✓	✓	✓
La Hachadura	✓	✓	✓
Las Chinamas	✓	✓	✓
San Cristóbal	✓	✓	✓

Despite the fact that a health control is carried out, it is known that on some occasions there is non-compliance with some basic aspect, **mainly in that health declarations are not systematically provided or surgical masks are provided for suspected cases of COVID-19, especially at the borders of El Amatillo, Anguiatú and San Cristóbal,** despite the general confirmation of the functioning of a protocol that guarantees the application of the guidelines.



Availability of Hand-Washing Stations for Public Use

✓ Anguiatú

✓ El Amatillo

✓ El Poy

✓ La Hachadura

✗ Las Chinamas

✓ San Cristóbal



Availability of Soap and Water at Hand-Washing Stations

✓ Anguiatú

✓ El Amatillo

✗ El Poy

✓ La Hachadura

✗ Las Chinamas

✗ San Cristóbal

CONCLUSIONS



Despite the border closures, the irregular migratory flow has not ceased and both incoming and outgoing migratory flows have been identified during June, July and August.



The crossing points along the border with Guatemala present the highest activity regarding entries into El Salvador. With respect to outgoing migratory flows, the informants report the most movement at the El Amatillo location by persons heading towards Honduras.



The presence of persons in vulnerable conditions has been detected among the incoming migratory flows, especially pregnant women and COVID-19 cases at almost all the border crossing localities.



Institutions to which confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19 may be referred are present at all of the border crossing locations. At the Salvadoran border crossing points, information related to the Pandemic is available for migrants and local residents.



Internally displaced people were identified at El Amatillo and La Hachadura. Only at El Amatillo, however, were these persons referred to the applicable authorities to have their cases addressed.



The health guidelines and controls applied at the border locations are fairly uniform with respect to temperature monitoring and the supplying of face masks to suspected virus carriers and their companions. At some locations, however, it is reported that hand-washing stations with soap and water are not available.

