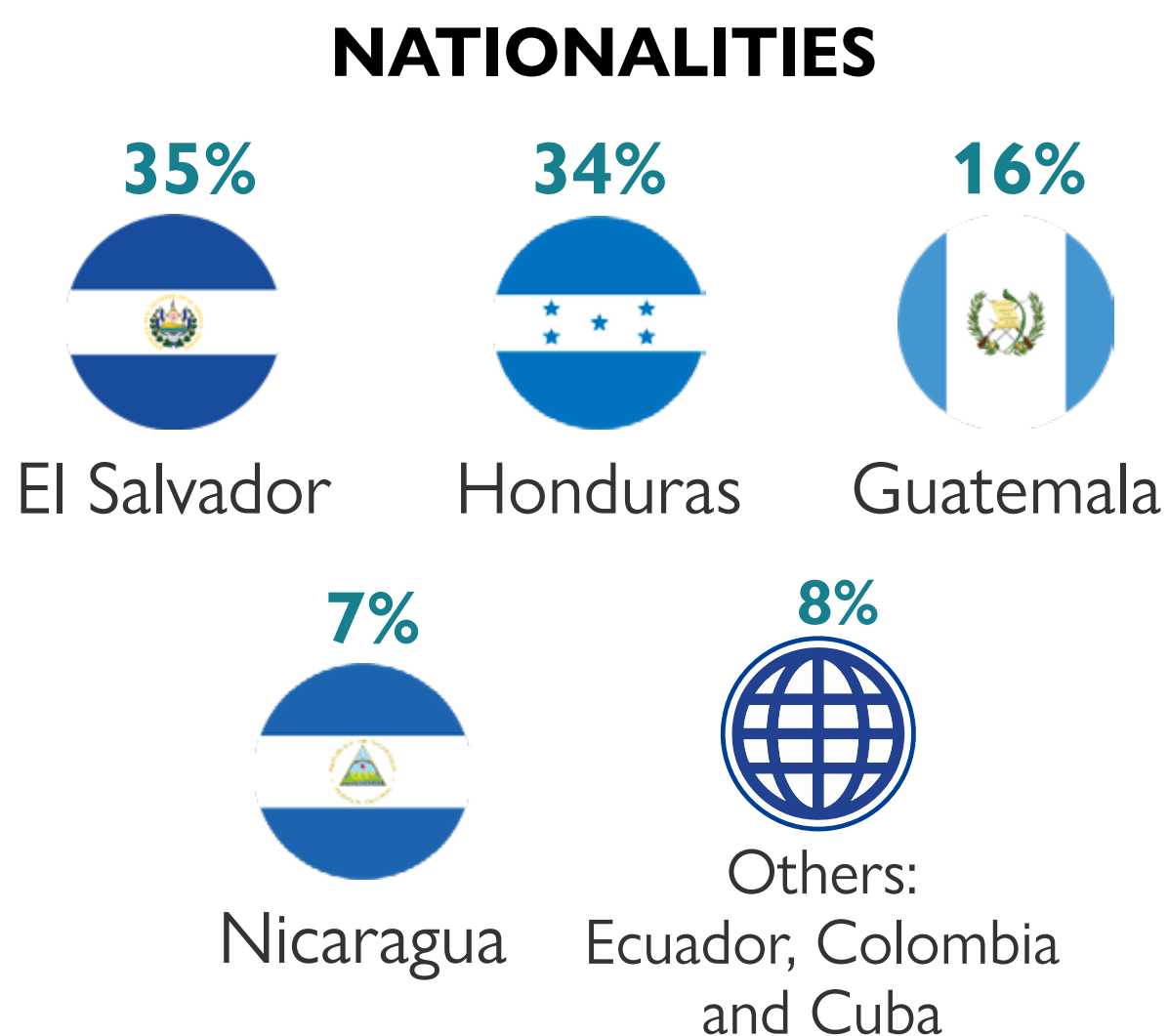
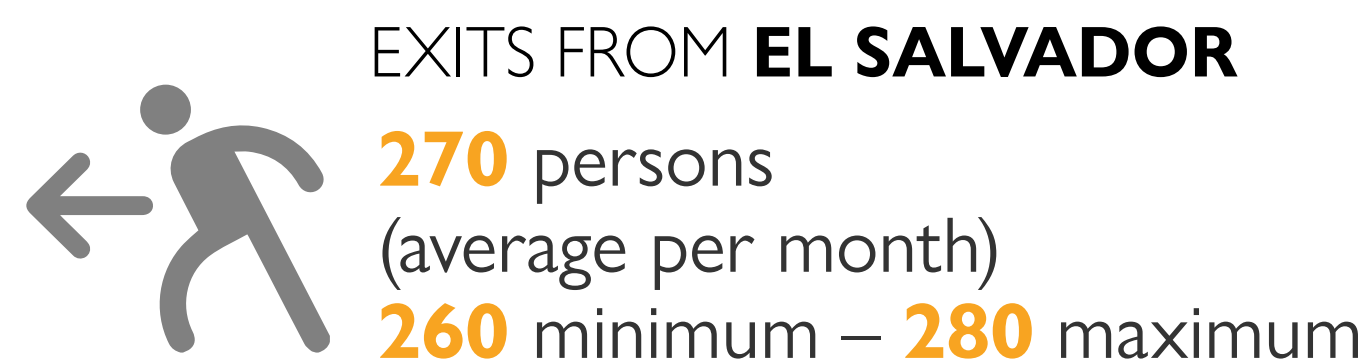
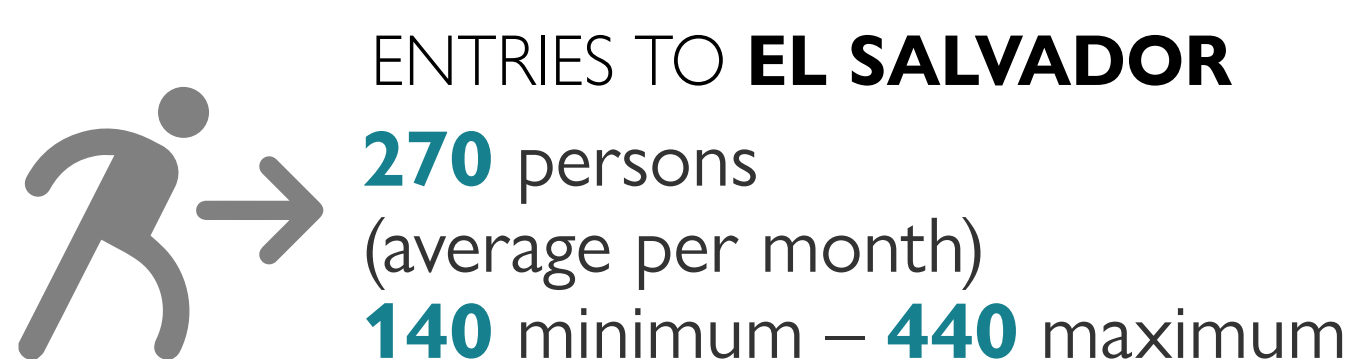


## HIGHLIGHTS

### 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 44 migrants stranded at different border locations during the period, mainly due to the lack of a PCR-RT Test for detecting COVID-19.

## 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. The data were gathered through remote interviews with strategically selected key informants. Information provided by the General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners (DGME), the National Civil Police (PNC), and the International Health Office (OSI) was used for each month and for each crossing point. For the El Amatillo Border Crossing, information was also obtained from the Municipality of Pasaquina. The interviews were held in April 2021.

The data collected only show the perceptions 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 estimations of the situation.

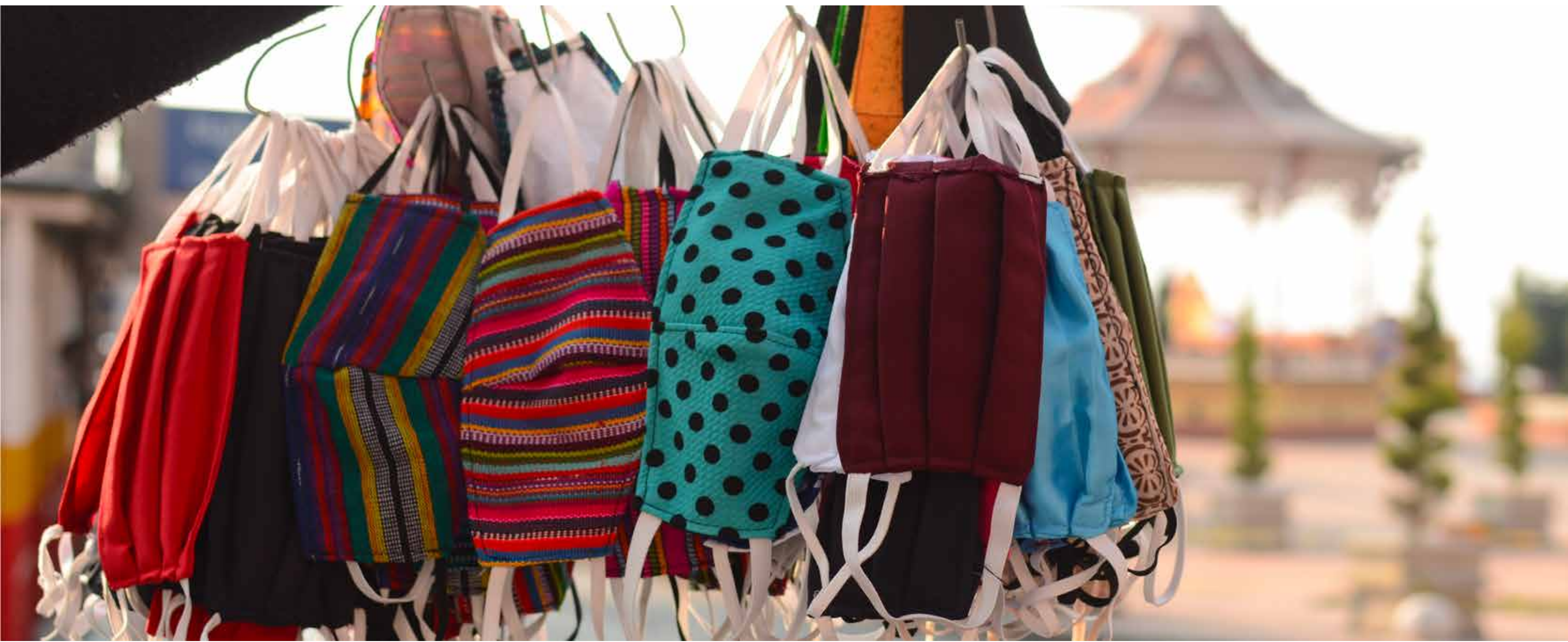
## LOCATION

### EI SALVADOR

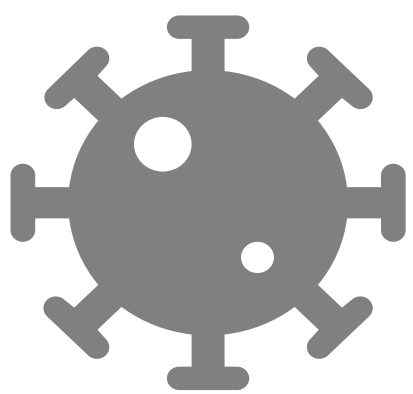


Basemap source: ESRI and UN World Map

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 order to enter El Salvador, it is necessary to present proof of COVID-19 vaccination (either single- or double-dose, depending on the test). Persons who have not been vaccinated must present a PCR, NAAT, or LAMP Test with negative results.



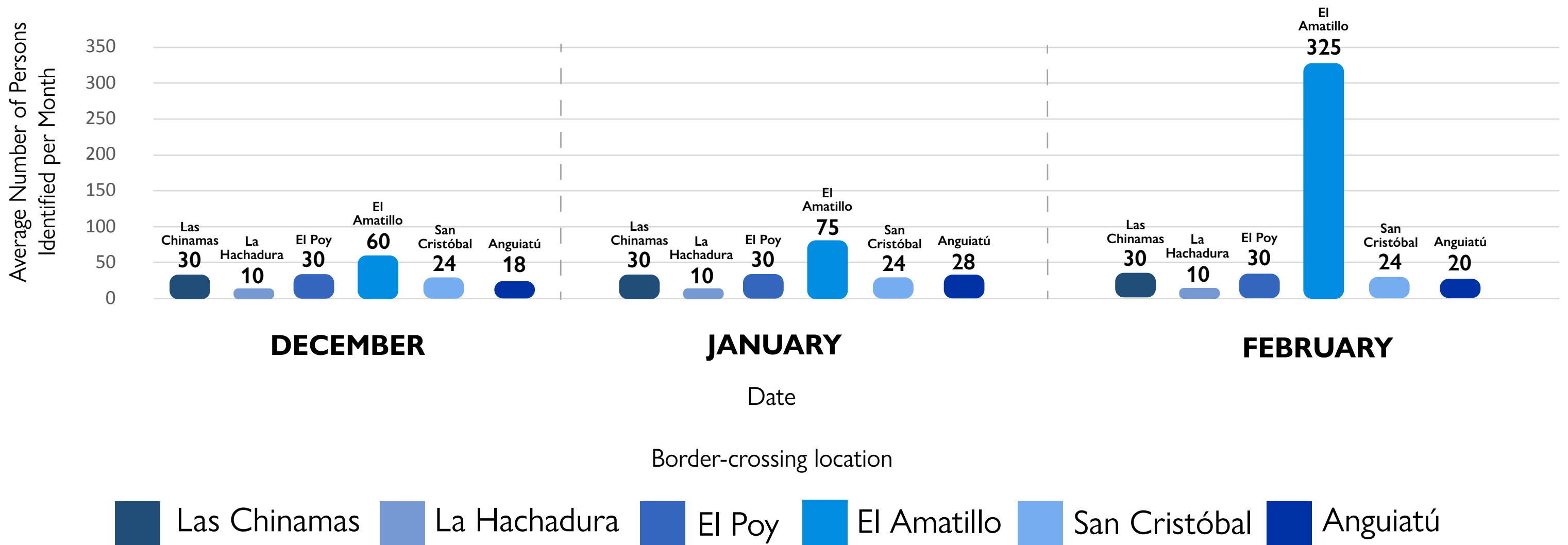
The need to obtain a negative PCR-RT test to cross different borders has been added to the other existing requirements, thus increasing the cost of regular migration (these tests cost approximately \$120-\$140). In addition, scams involving false PCR-RT tests have been detected, causing many migrants to be turned back or rejected upon trying to enter El Salvador. Despite the fact that around 90% of the people who attempt to enter the country through official border crossings have the necessary documentation for migrating regularly, the high costs implied by these new requisites have caused an increase in irregular migration.



The change of administration in the United States has created expectations in El Salvador, particularly for the family reunification of underage persons. In addition, the Asylum Cooperation Agreements (ACA) between the United States and Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, which allowed the return of migrants from the United States, were repealed in February 2021.

# INCOMING MIGRATION FLOWS

## Monthly approximation of persons entering irregularly per border crossing location (December 2020 – February 2021)



Source: Key informants.

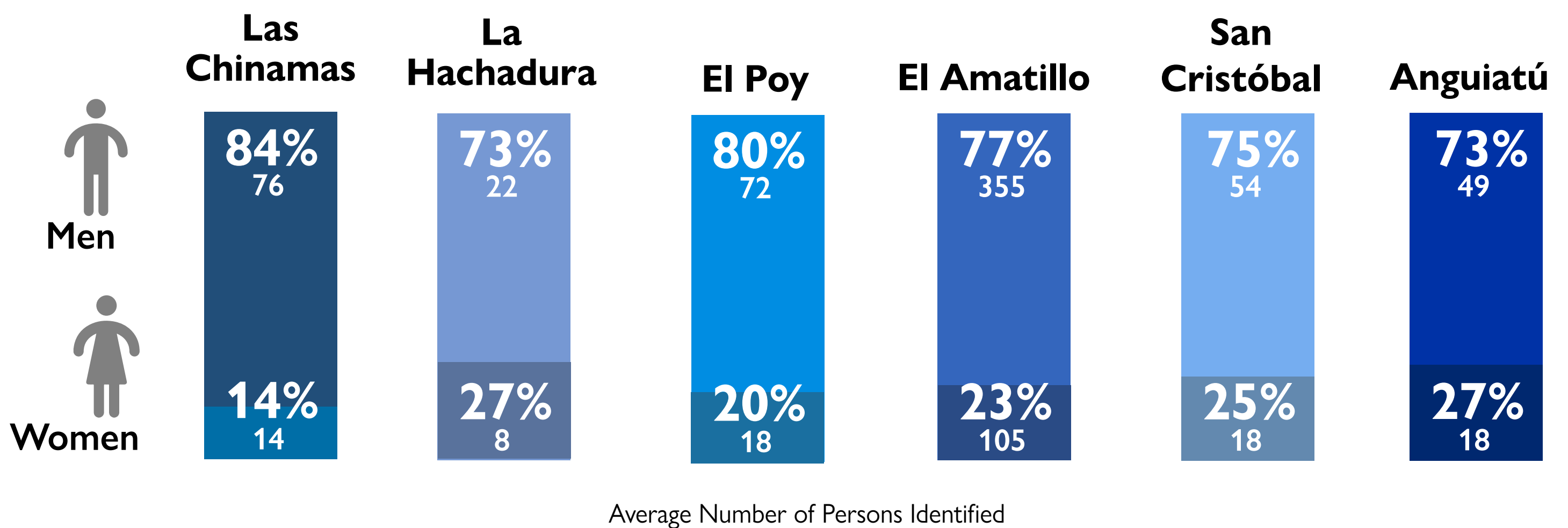
With respect to the incoming migration flow, the data provided by the key informants show significant stability in the number of entries during the period, except for February in El Amatillo, when 170 Salvadorans entered irregularly to participate in the elections, according to the Municipality of Pasaquina.

78% of the persons entering were men, with the proportion remaining similar at the various border crossings.

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

Underage persons represent the category with the greatest number of persons identified as being in vulnerable condition, with 51 persons. Underage persons represent at least 6% of the migration flow.

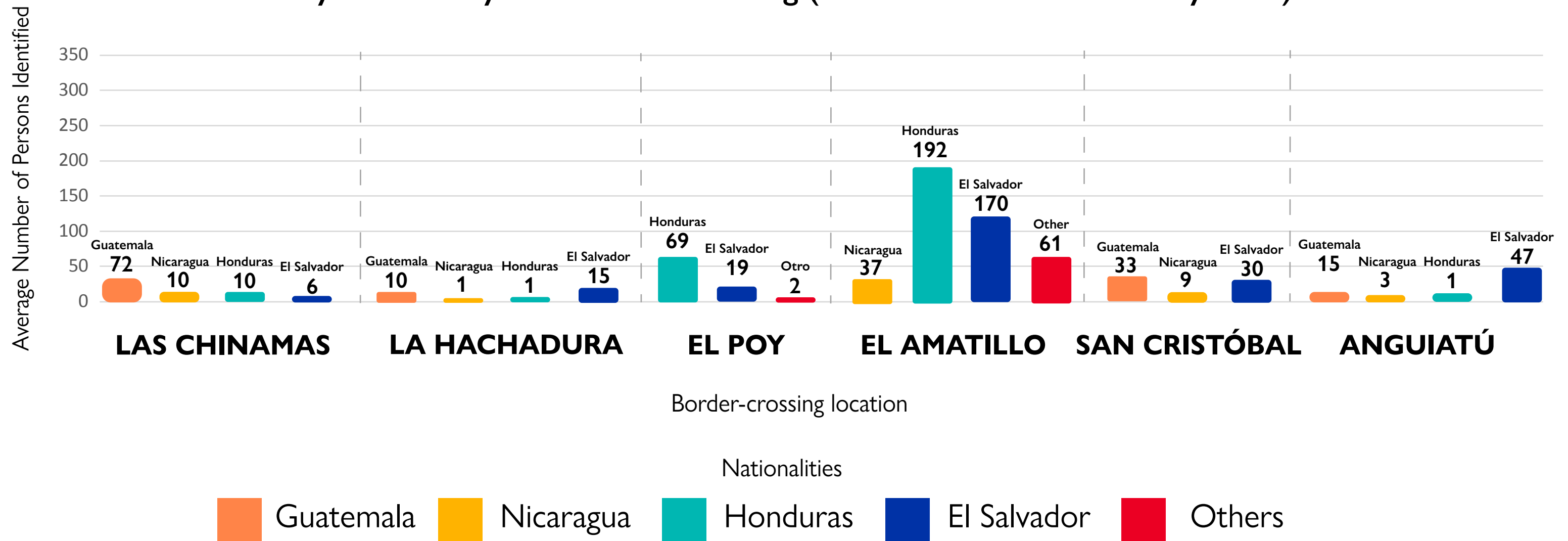
## Monthly approximation of persons entering irregularly, by Gender and Border Crossing (December 2020 – February 2021)



Source: Key informants.

# INCOMING MIGRATION FLOWS

## Monthly approximation of persons entering irregularly by Nationality and Border Crossing (December 2020 – February 2021)



Source: Key informants.

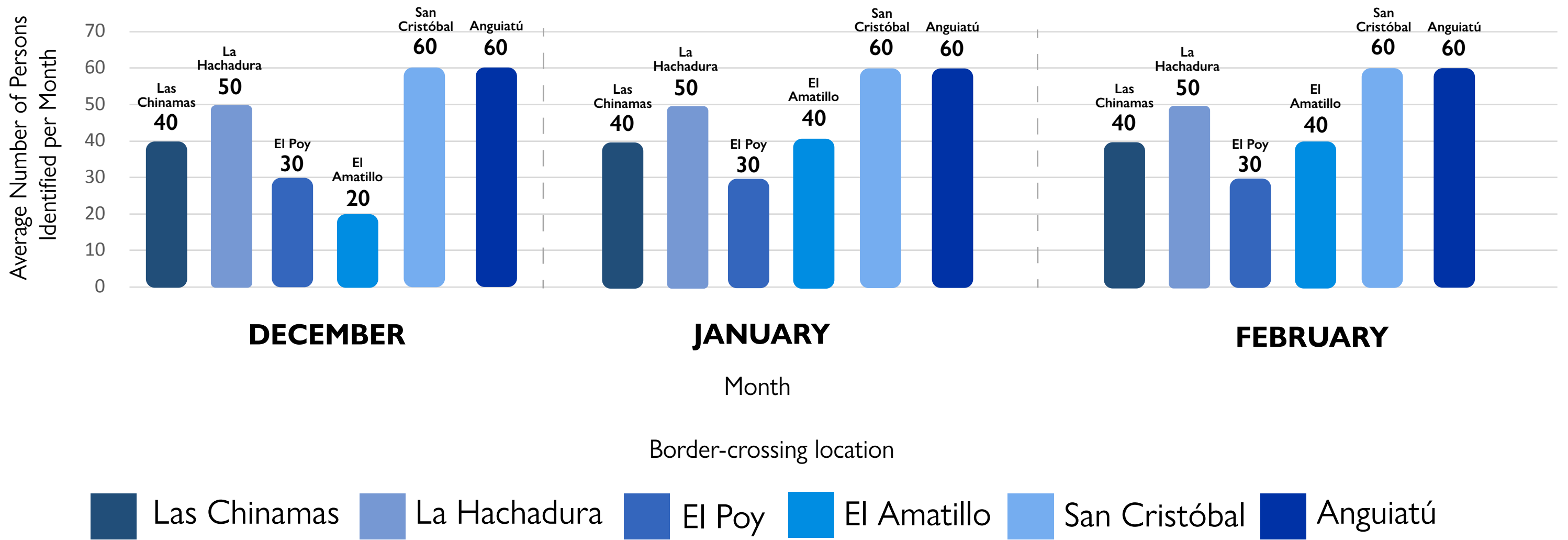
The three nationalities most represented among the incoming flow are Salvadoran, Honduran, and Guatemalan. Salvadoran nationals used all six border crossings, with 170 persons entering through El Amatillo in February due to the elections held that month.

Most of the Hondurans enter through El Amatillo crossing, with El Poy also being used. The Guatemalan nationals mainly enter through Las Chinamas, and to a lesser extent through San Cristóbal and Anguiatú. It should be noted that the intraregional migration is due to labor migration, as well as the need to seek medical care at the Ahuachapán and Santa Ana locations.

At El Amatillo border, an extraregional migration flow in transit has been identified, including people from Cuba, Ecuador and Colombia, also, people coming from Asia were identified in El Poy; however, the quantification of these people is minimal according to the perspective of key informants.

# OUTGOING MIGRATION FLOWS

Monthly approximation of persons leaving irregularly per border crossing location (December 2020 – February 2021)



Source: Key informants.

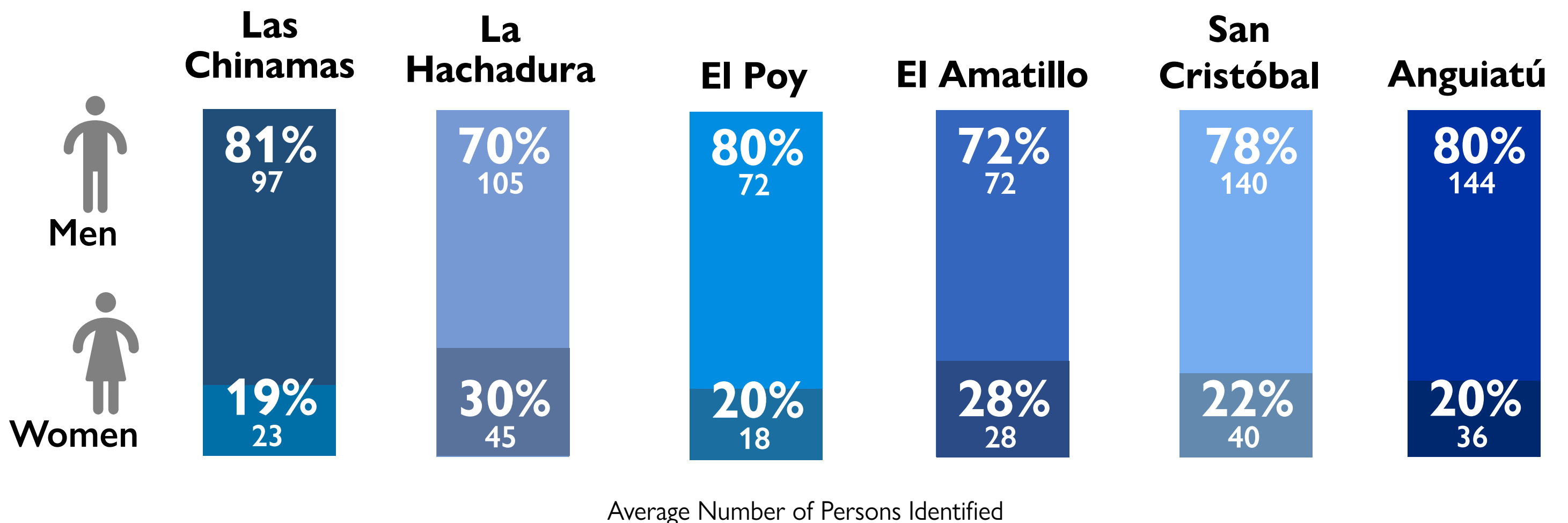
The data provided by the key informants for the different border crossings indicate flows of 20 to 60 persons per months at each crossing, with the highest numbers of outgoing persons seen at the San Cristóbal and Anguiatú crossings.

Regarding the composition of the migration flow by gender, 77% of the persons departing El Salvador are men, with a similar proportion seen at all the border crossing locations.

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

Underage persons represent the category with the greatest number of persons identified as being in vulnerable condition, with 141 persons. Underage persons represent at least 17% of the migration flow.

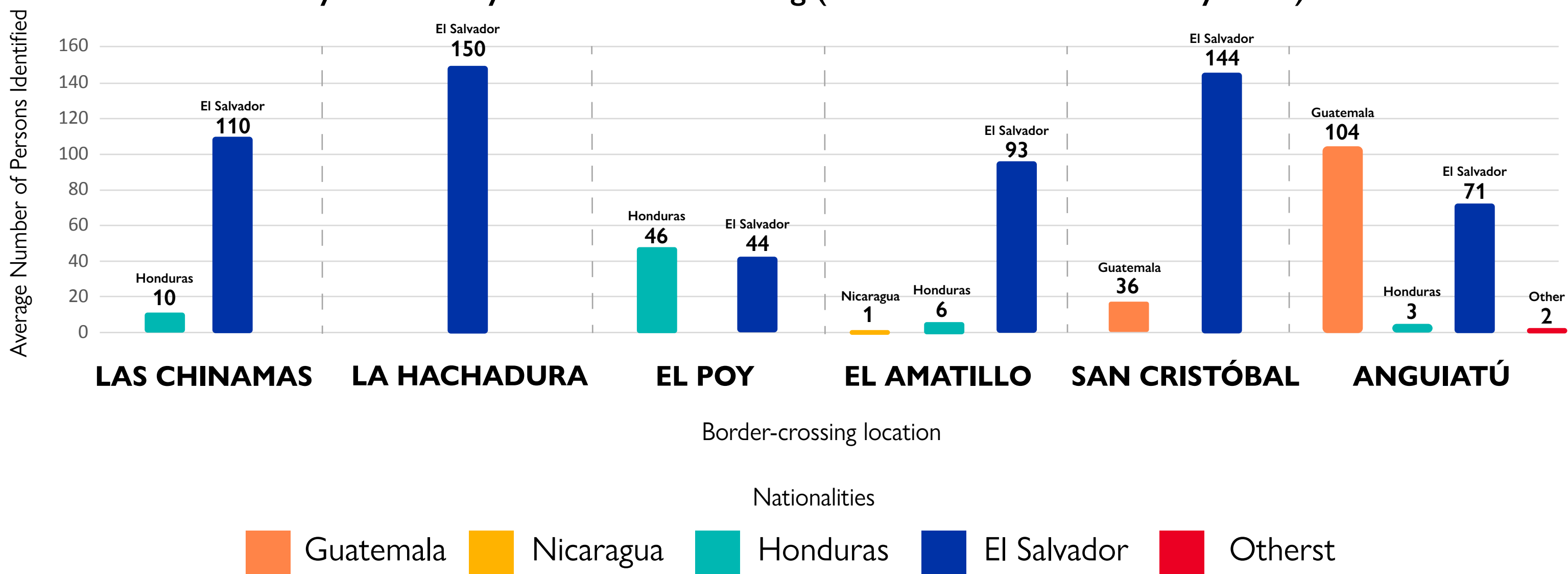
Monthly approximation of persons leaving irregularly, by Gender and Border Crossing (December 2020 – February 2021)



Source: Key informants.

# OUTGOING MIGRATION FLOWS

Monthly approximation of persons leaving irregularly by Nationality and Border Crossing (December 2020 – February 2021)



Source: Key informants.

75% of the persons departing El Salvador irregularly are Salvadoran nationals. Most of these persons (70%) migrate in small groups of 2-4 persons.

The main motives for migrating are family reunification (in the United States) and internal displacement due to violence, especially by young persons. These migrants use all six border crossings, with San Cristóbal and La Hachadura showing the largest flows.

At Anguiatú and, to a lesser extent, San Cristóbal, the key informants identified Guatemalan nationals departing. Most of the Honduran nationals leaving El Salvador cross the border at El Poy.



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

## Nationalities



**44 migrants**  
**Border locations**  
**December - January**



Nicaragua



Honduras



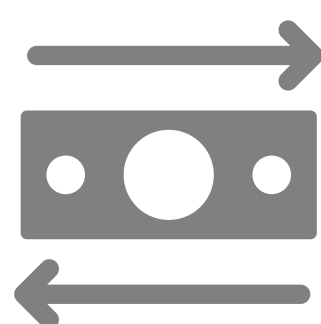
The key informants only identified approximately 44 migrants stranded at the different border crossings during the studied period. Specifically, in December, 25 Nicaraguan nationals were stranded at El Amatillo, and ten at La Hachadura (nine Hondurans and one Nicaraguan). The key informants did not mention incidents with the local community nor the authorities. Lack of the PCR-RT Test was the main reason these persons were stranded at the border.

## LODGING CONDITIONS

**Without lodging**



**Rented lodging**



**Migrant Service Shelters**





## CONCLUSIONS



Incoming flows of less than 100 persons per month were identified at each of the border crossing locations, with the exception of El Amatillo in February, when 170 Salvadoran nationals entered to participate in the elections held that month. The three nationalities most represented in the incoming flow are Salvadorans, Hondurans, and Guatemalans.



Outgoing flows of 20 to 60 persons per months were detected at each border crossing location, with the highest numbers of persons exiting at San Cristóbal and Aguiatú.



With respect to persons in vulnerable conditions, the limitations of the field staff for identifying differentiated profiles persist, which results in quantitative approximations according to the capacities of each key informant. Despite this fact, the key informants mentioned cases of migrant smuggling and two cases of sexual violence related to said smuggling activity.



According to the key informants, the requirement to present a negative PCR-RT Test and the high cost of the test increased the incidence of irregular migration.



The limitations of the key informants for the identification of vulnerable people, except for minors, are highlighted.



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

This publication was possible with the support from the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (PRM) of the United States of America Department of State, in the framework of the Western Hemisphere Program. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Government of the United States of America. This publication has not been officially edited by IOM.