

▶ 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.

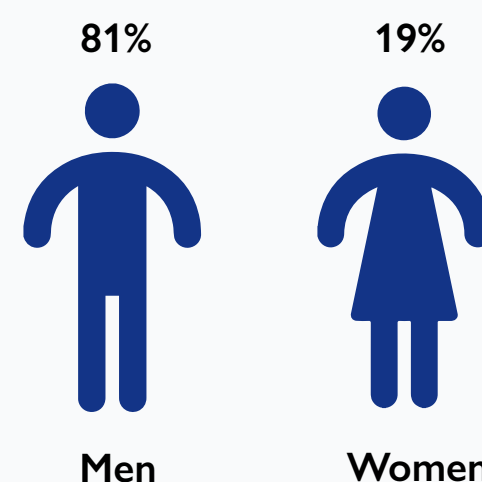
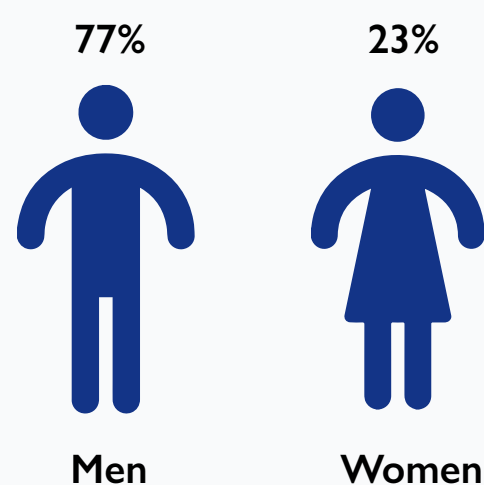


Entries:
525 people in average per month
18 minimum- 4,400 maximum

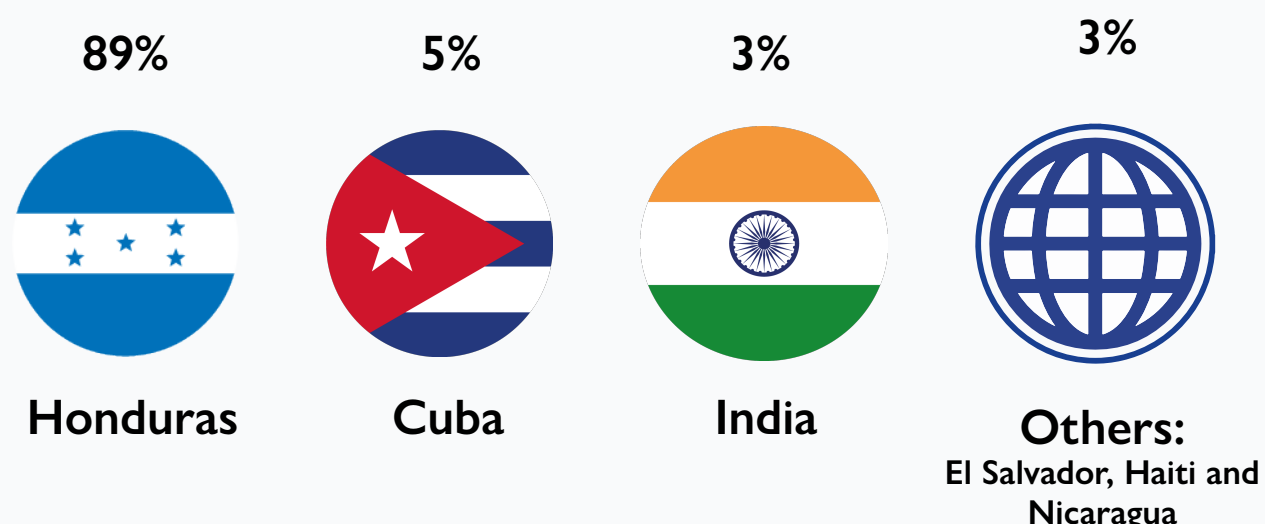
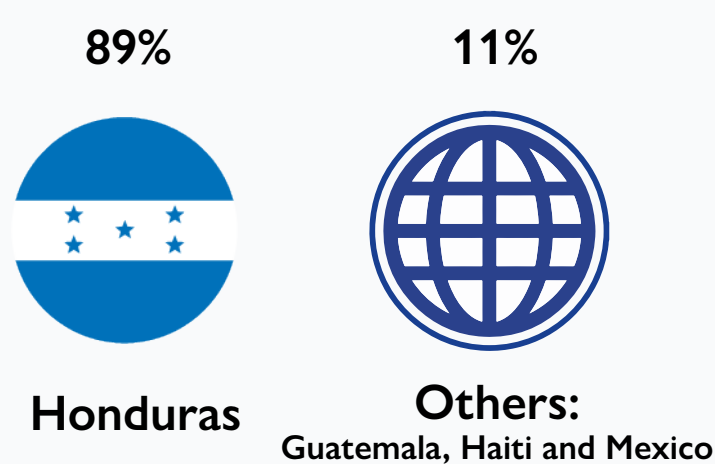


Exits:
468 people in average per month
10 minimum-5,000 maximum

Gender



Nationalities



STRANDED POPULATION



Significant groups at El Amatillo border



Majority are men



57 migrants identified from consultation to key informants

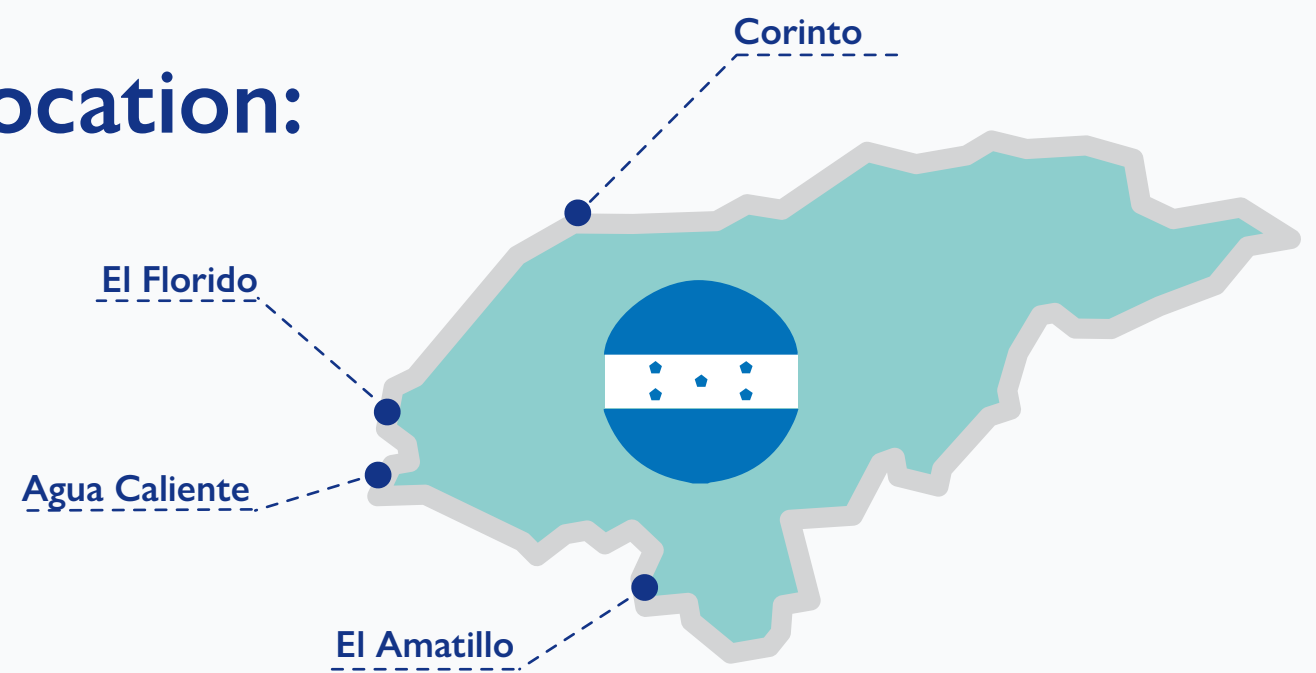
Nationalities



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 collection was based on interviews with strategically selected key informants from the following institutions: Departmental Economic Development Agency (ADED) of Valle, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OACNIHD), Centre for Human Development (CDH), Mennonite Social Action Commission (CASM), National Commissioner for Human Rights (CONADEH), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Directorate for Children, Adolescents and the Family (DINAF), National Directorate Police Services (DNSPF) and the National Migration Institute (INM). Said interviews were made during December 2020

Location:



In addition, information from secondary sources was gathered from other institutional actors present in the field, such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), as well as the Inter-Agency Protection Cluster and various media outlets.

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.

SITUATIONAL CONTEXT



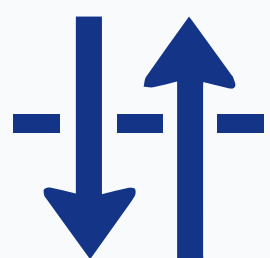
In the context of the pandemic, economic activities have gradually reopened through phases, reaching phase 2 during the reporting period. Movement is regulated by a curfew, and traffic schedules have been varied, ranging from 5:00 am to 11:00 pm. The national circulation schedule is also maintained according to the digits of the personal identification number.¹



In September 2020, the borders were reopened, allowing the entry of people of different nationalities into Honduran territory. Biosecurity measures are maintained and it is stipulated that each person wishing to enter must have a PCR test (with a cost between \$50 a \$100) of at least 72 hours or a rapid diagnostic test –PDR- (mainly for returned migrant population).



During November, Honduras was heavily impacted by Hurricanes Eta and Iota. At least 4 million people were directly and indirectly affected. 562,274 people were evacuated and around 95,000 were temporarily sheltered.² About 70 per cent of staple grain crops were devastated³ and around 318,635 hectares of agricultural land were destroyed.⁴ Most of those affected were small- and medium-scale producers.



At the end of September 2020, a caravan of migrants formed, creating a massive migration flow that led to a migration crisis. The call reached at least 4,000 migrants who crossed the border with Guatemala irregularly.

¹ Retrieved from: www.bit.ly/3sVMXCr

² Retrieved from: www.bit.ly/2MIVBcK

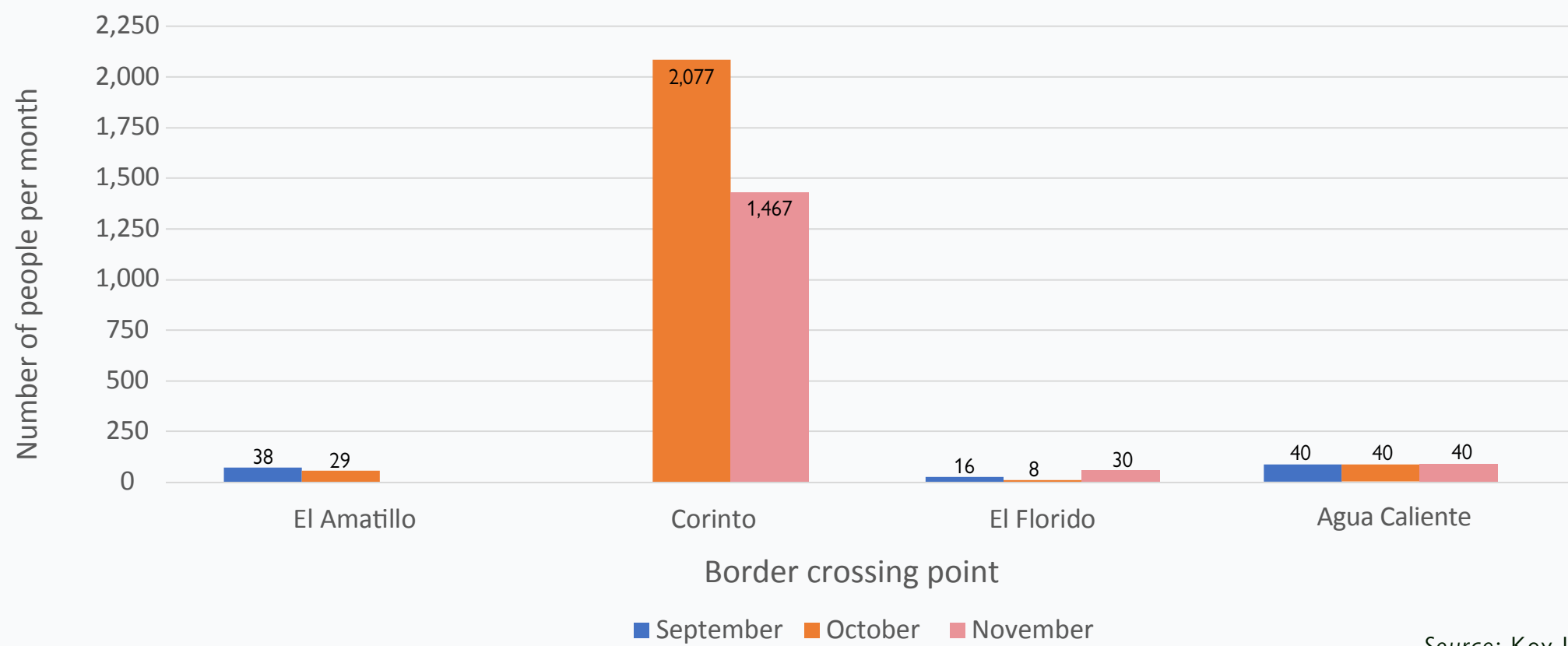
³ Retrieved from: www.bit.ly/2M54Air

⁴ Retrieved from: www.bit.ly/2YrrmE5



INCOMING MIGRATION FLOW

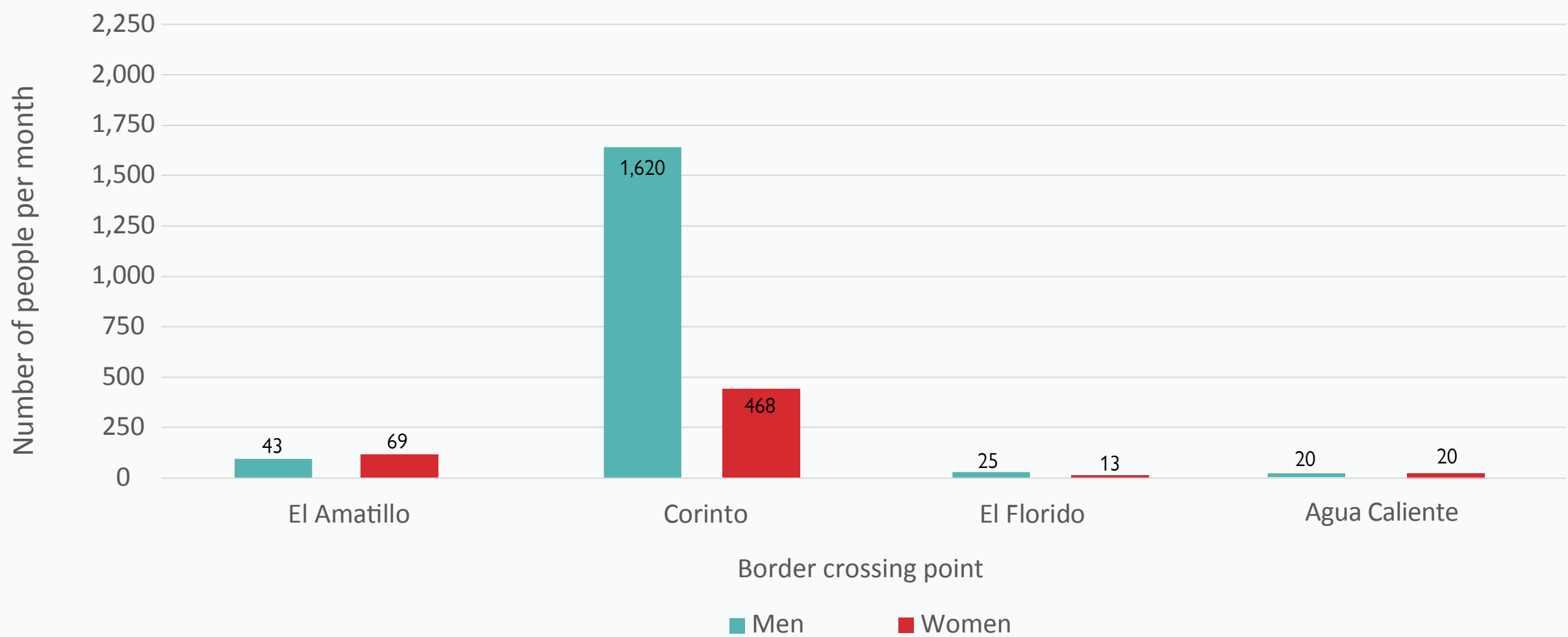
Monthly estimate of irregular entries by border crossing point (2020)



Source: Key Informants.

During October and November, between 2,700 and 4,400 people were identified entering through Corinto border as a result of the return of people who migrated irregularly to Guatemala in a caravan, which happened between September 30 and October 4, according to key informants and situation reports consulted. Some migrants were detained and returned to Honduras as part of migration management operations in Guatemala because the migrants did not have the requirements to transit through Guatemala: PCR, identity card and laissez-passer from the National Risk Management System (SINAGER) if travelling with minors, among others. At the borders of El Amatillo, El Florido and Agua Caliente, entries are less easily tracked, and an average of 30 people have been identified per month.

Monthly estimate of irregular incoming migration flow by gender and border crossing points (2020)



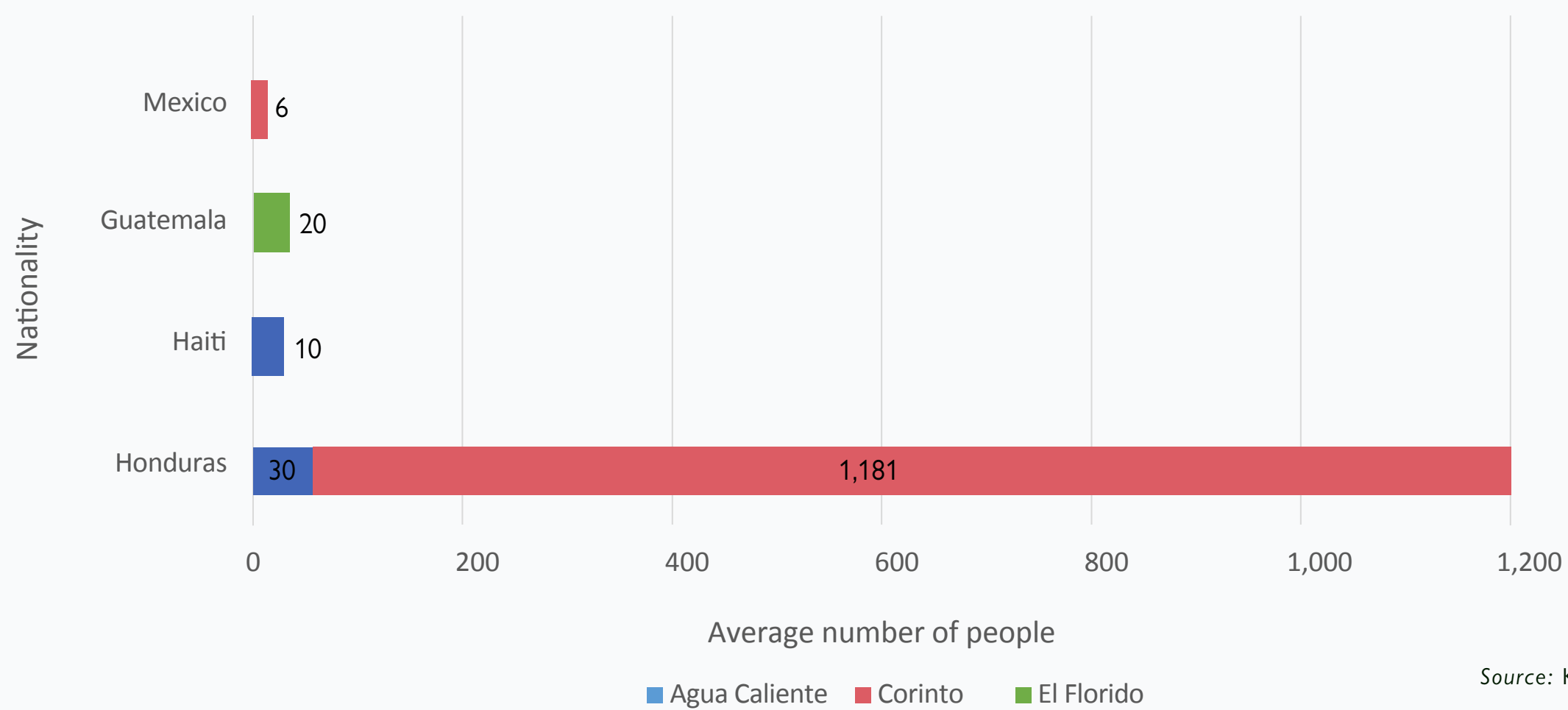
Source: Key Informants.

In terms of the gender composition of the migration flow, **at least 77 per cent of irregular migrants entering Honduras during September and November are men.** However, there are some exceptions, such as the case of the El Amatillo border, **where six out of every 10 people are women,** and the Agua Caliente border, where the ratio is equal.



INCOMING MIGRATION FLOW

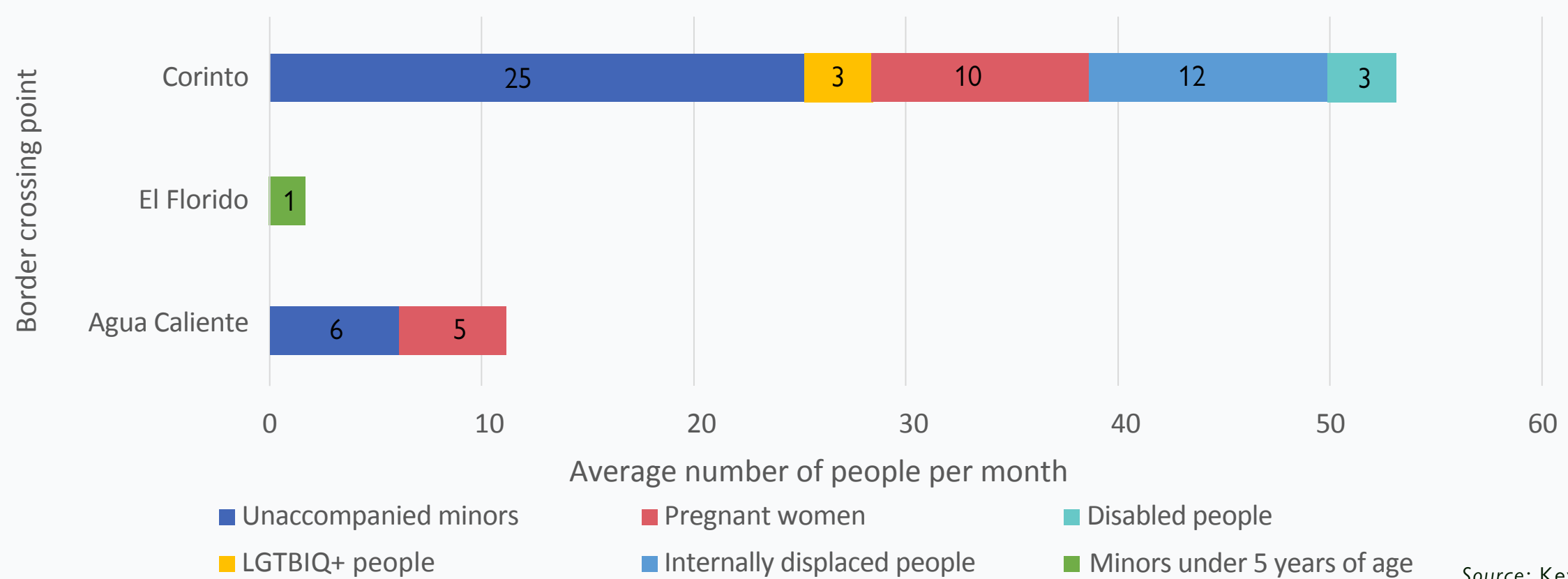
Main nationalities reported by key informants in the irregular incoming migration flow by border locality (2020)



Source: Key Informants.

At least 89 percent of the people detected were from Honduras, and the remaining 11 percent were from countries such as Haiti, Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua and some African countries that could not be identified by key informants. People from Honduras, Haiti, Nicaragua and the African continent were often part of the population, as explained above, that was detained and returned by Guatemala because they do not have the necessary documentation to enter or transit through Guatemala. Migrants from Guatemala and El Salvador were primarily part of an intra-regional migration flow related to cross-border commercial trade and access to services across the El Florido and El Amatillo borders, respectively. Salvadorans are the main nationality detected in El Amatillo, but it was not possible to quantify this flow.

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



Source: Key Informants.

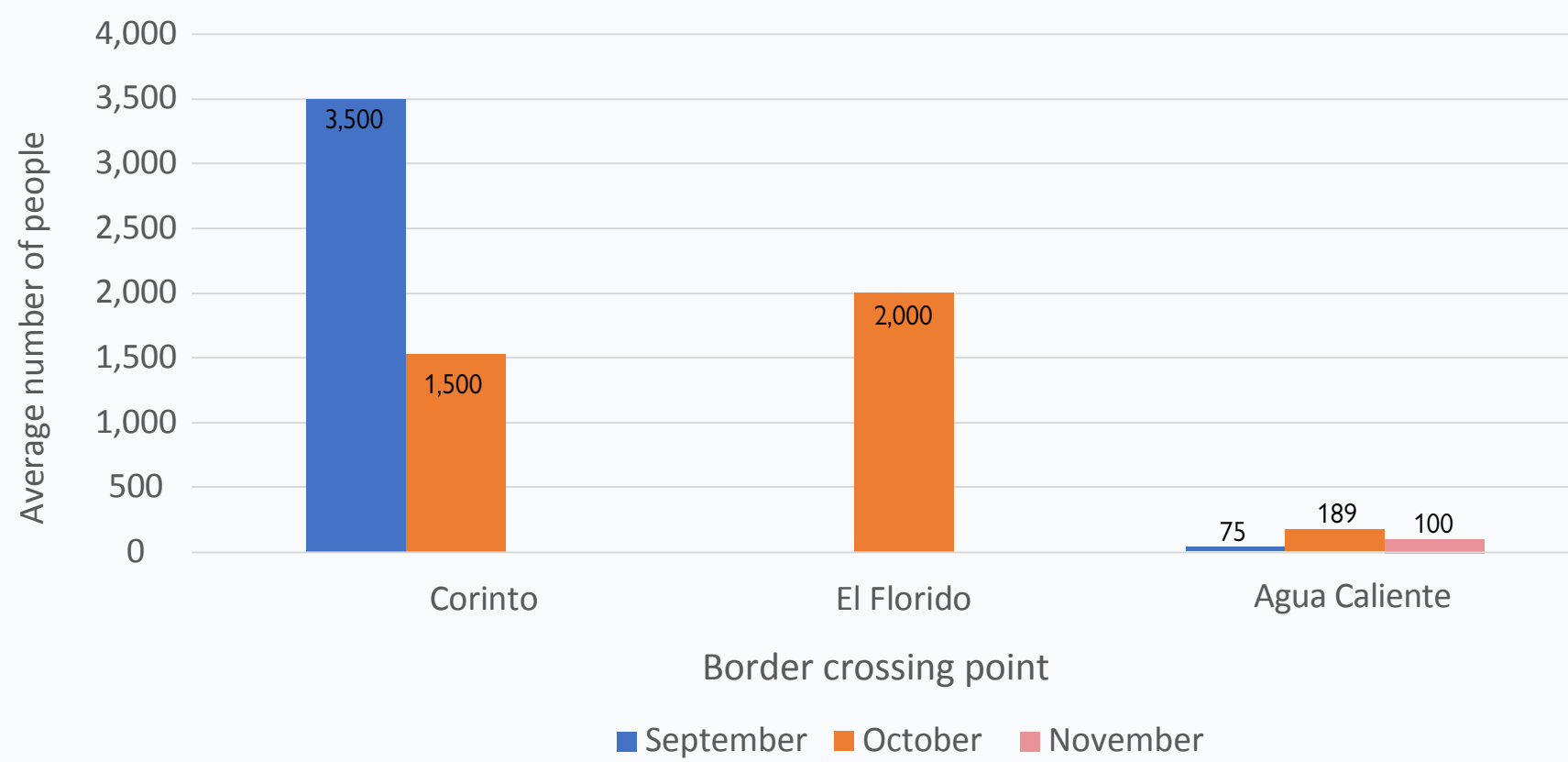
In relation to people in vulnerable conditions, field staff still experience limitations in identifying different groups, so a quantitative approach is available only according to the capacities of each key informant. **Corinto is the border crossing point where the greatest number of vulnerable people have been identified,** with unaccompanied minor, pregnant women and internally displaced people (as potential migrants) the most commonly identified.

In the border town of El Amatillo, key informants found it more difficult to identify members of vulnerable populations who migrat irregularly, so it was not possible to quantify the presence of these populations. The community reported that people suspected of carrying COVID-19 were identified by authorities, but they were not able to provide a quantitative estimate.



OUTGOING MIGRATION FLOW

Monthly estimation of irregular outgoing migration flow by month and locality (2020)

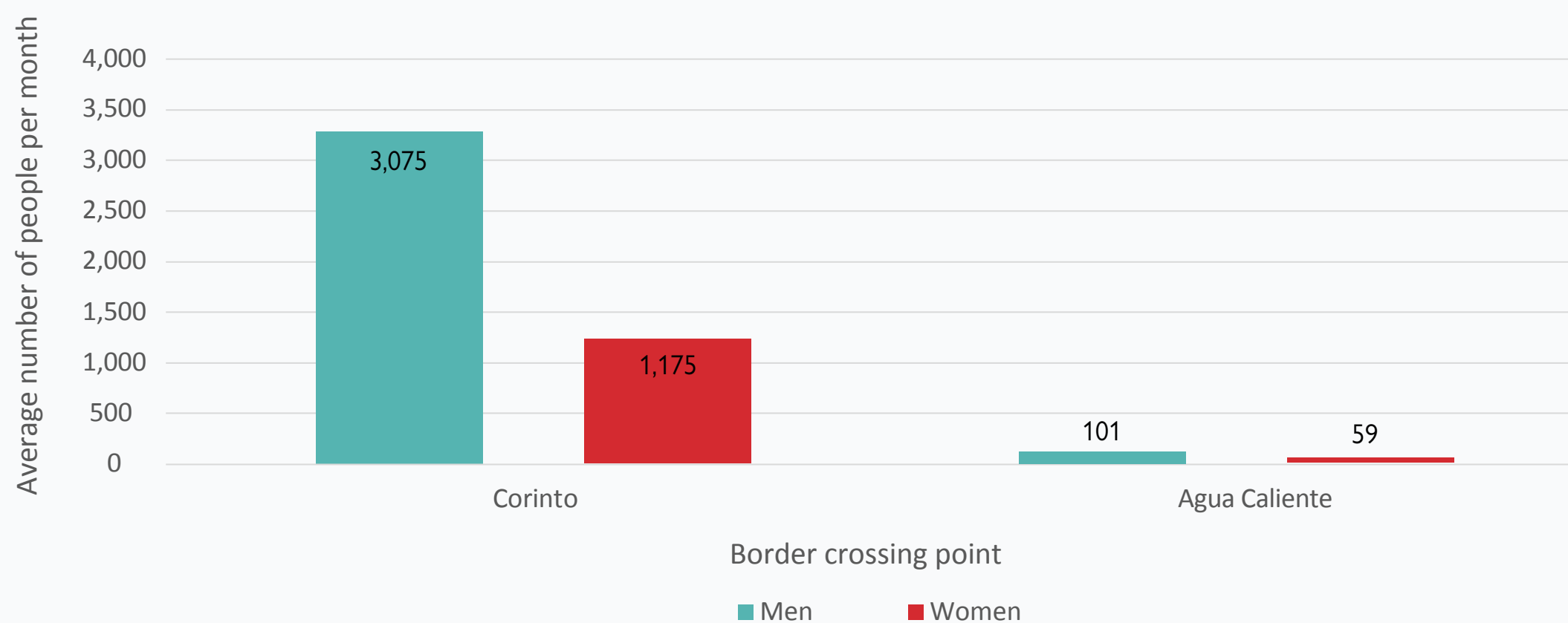


Source: Key Informants and secondary sources.

In September and October, various organised groups in Honduras called for a caravan of migrants to travel to North America by land. This movement produced a migration crisis led to the collapse of border management due to the gathering of close to **4,000 people at the Corinto and El Florido borders**. This event occurred in two days, so the average number of migrants identified during the month corresponds exclusively to this crisis.

In El Florido, a cross-border dynamic has also been identified related to the coffee production and harvesting season, in which migrants evade border controls as they seek to move to neighbouring areas in Guatemala. **At Agua Caliente and El Amatillo borders, the outgoing flow of migrants was less noticeable.** In Agua Caliente, it is estimated that at least 121 people left through this border per month and these are associated with flows to countries outside the region.

Monthly estimation of irregular outgoing migration flow by gender and border crossing locations (2020)



Source: Key Informants and secondary sources.

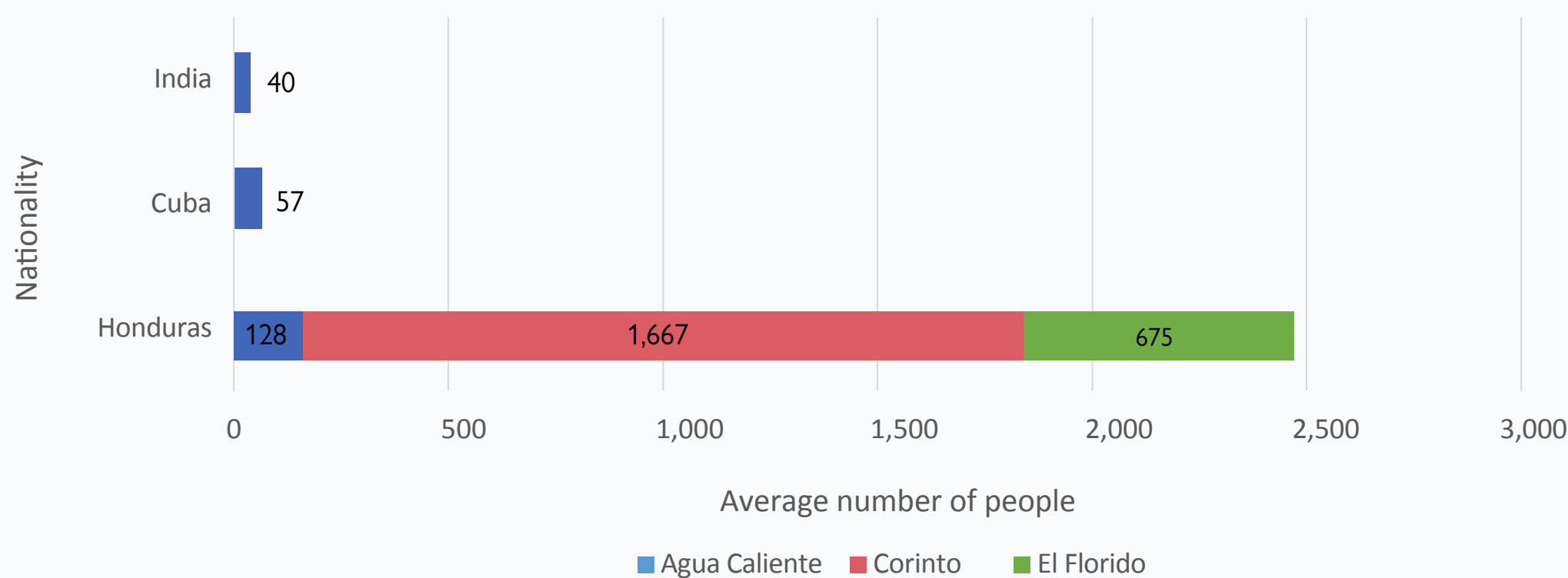
In El Amatillo, it was not possible to quantify these dynamics, but they are associated with an intra-regional migration flow. Regarding the gender composition of the migration flow, **at least 82 per cent of the people leaving Honduras irregularly through the Corinto border are men.**

In the case of Agua Caliente border, the ratio is equal and it is estimated that out of 10 people, four of them are women. However, there is an information gap in the border localities of El Amatillo and El Florido, where data disaggregated by gender was not possible to quantify.



OUTGOING MIGRATION FLOW

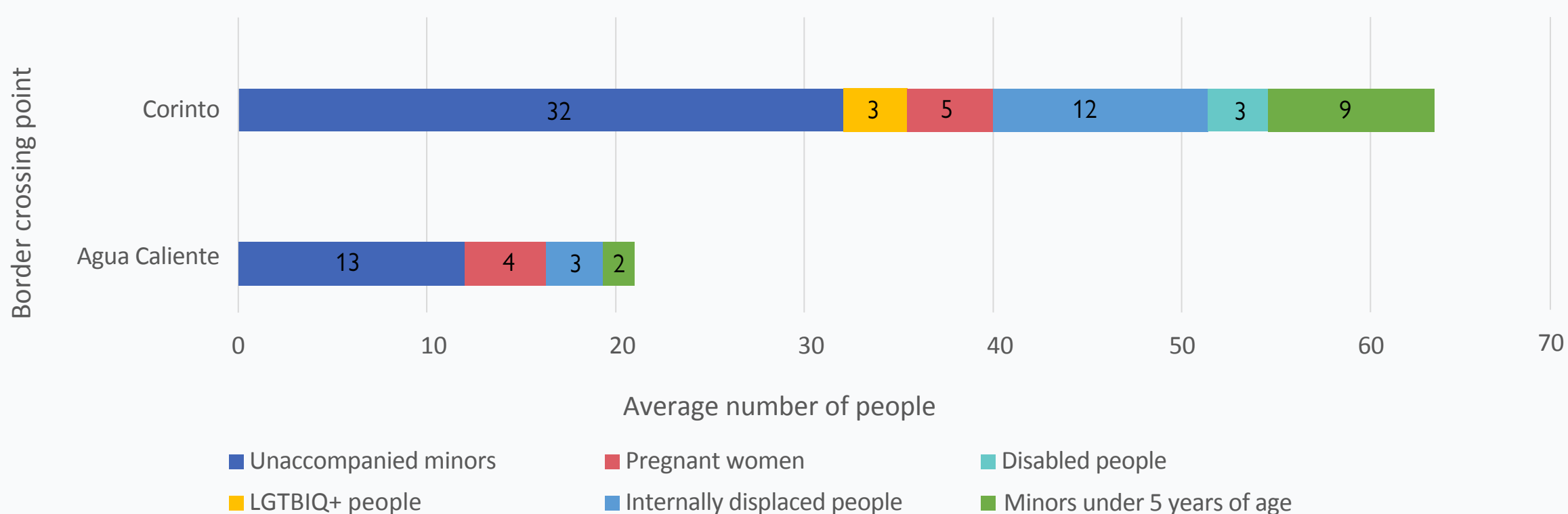
Main nationalities reported by key informants in the irregular outgoing flow by border locality (2020)



Source: Key Informants.

At least 89 per cent of the people identified in the outgoing migration flow are from Honduras, followed by five per cent from Cuba and five per cent from India. The remaining three per cent correspond to various nationalities, including El Salvador, Haiti and Nicaragua. There is no estimate available for the number of Salvadoran, Haitian and Nicaraguan nationals. With regard to Hondurans, it is estimated that the economic impacts caused by the health and sanitation restrictions on commercial activities related to the COVID-19 pandemic, have motivated people to emigrate from their country of origin in search of better opportunities, mainly because these impacts have lowered working conditions and the cost of living in Honduras has increased. People from El Salvador are often involved in with a cross-border dynamic related to trading and the access to services, specifically in El Amatillo.

Estimated number of people identified in the irregular outgoing migration flow under vulnerable conditions by border locality (2020)



Source: Key Informants.

Limitations remain for identifying different vulnerable population in the field, especially given the migration dynamics during the period of analysis. Specifically, the key challenges were: the caravan phenomena occurred at fast speed and there was inaccessibility at blind spots, mainly in El Florido. **The greatest number of members of vulnerable populations have been identified at Corinto**, with unaccompanied minors, internally displaced people and minors under 5 years of age being the most frequently identified. Internally displaced people are often affected by gender-based violence and gang-related civil strife, and were referred to UNHCR Guatemala. In El Amatillo, internally displaced people in need of international protection were identified, although it is not known whether they were referred to specialised institutions.



MIGRANT POPULATION STRANDED ALONG THE BORDERS

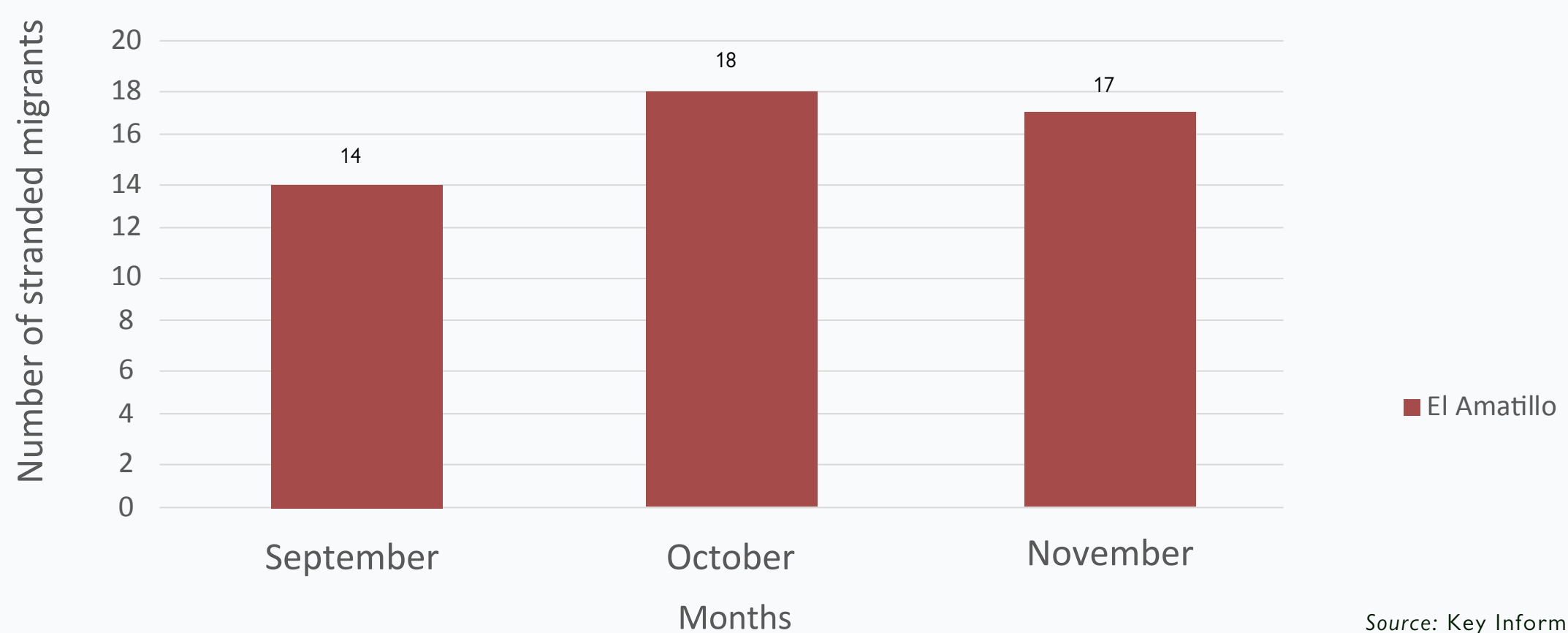
During the period of analysis, groups of migrants stranded at the border at El Amatillo were identified. The average size of the groups were 16 people, made up mostly of men. At least one minor under 5 years of age was also identified.

Migrants are stranded at the border primarily due to the lack of documentation, specifically the lack of PCR COVID-19 tests. This shortage of tests exists because the offices where the tests are processed often are not open at the times migrants can access them, which is often outside the established hours of 6am to 6pm. This also provokes dissatisfaction among migrants, which has led to some altercations between migrants, border authorities and the host community.

Stranded migrants have been supported by various institutions and non-governmental organisations, including the Ministry of Health, the Directorate of Childhood, Adolescence and Family (DINAF), the Center of Human Development (CDH), Acción Ecuémica por los Derechos Humanos, Mesa de Defensores de Derechos Humanos del Sur, Armed Forces, National Border Police, National Migration Institute and the Inter-institutional Migration Network of the Southern Region. These entities provided food and biosecurity supplied based on humanitarian needs.

In addition, local people have provided support to migrants by donating clothes, disposable baby diapers and food.

Estimated number of stranded migrants per month (2020)



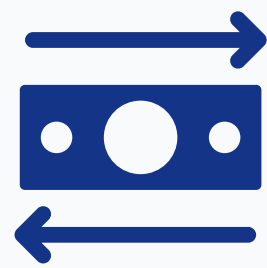
Lodging conditions

Without Lodging



99%

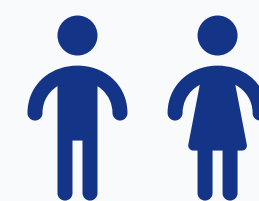
Rented Lodging



1%

Vulnerable populations

Minors under 5 years of age



<1%

Nationalities



Haiti



Honduras



Others⁷

⁷ It refers to nationalities from African countries, which could not be identified by key informants.



CONCLUSIONS



The migration flow into Honduras is mostly made up of people who previously left the country as part of a caravan, and the greatest mobility trend occurs at the Corinto border crossing point. This flow is primarily made up of men, Hondurans and people from extraregional country. Unaccompanied minors are the largest identified population



There is evidence of cross-border movement at the El Amatillo and El Florido borders for commercial purposes, access to services and informal labour migration, mainly of people from El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. It is not possible to quantify this trend because of the limitations in gathering data systematically.



The outgoing migration flow was concentrated in September and October, as a result of the migration crisis caused by the call for a caravan in Honduras, especially at El Florido and Corinto borders. However, the transit of extra-regional migrants, especially from Haiti, Cuba and India, continues. There is a significant presence of unaccompanied minors.



Stranded migrants were identified at El Amatillo border. These migrants are interrupted in their journey because they must wait for a PCR COVID-19 test to be issued, as the offices hours are limited and migrants often cannot visit the offices during the workday.



Most of the stranded people lack lodging while they wait to be assisted. There is no shelter available for this type of situation. Different governmental and civil society entities have provided food for the majority of the stranded migrants.



Key informants face challenges in identifying members of vulnerable populations, especially those suspected of having COVID-19. However, the most commonly identified migrants in a condition of vulnerability are people in need of international protection, people with disabilities and LGBTIQ+ people.



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