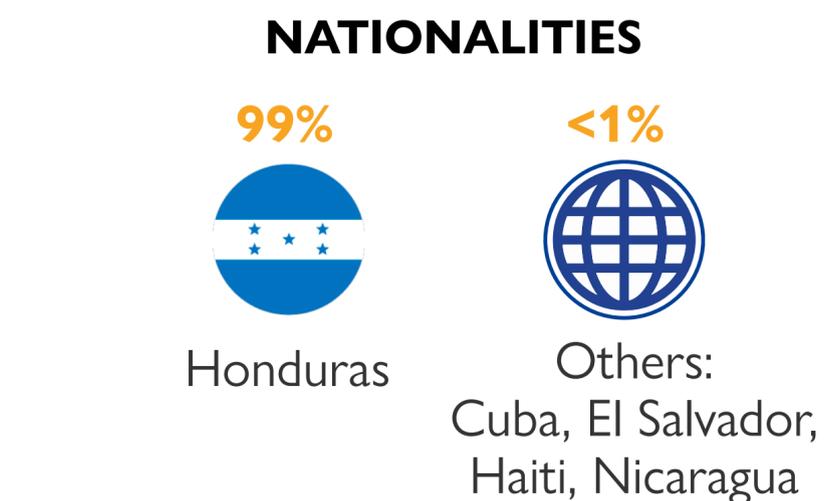
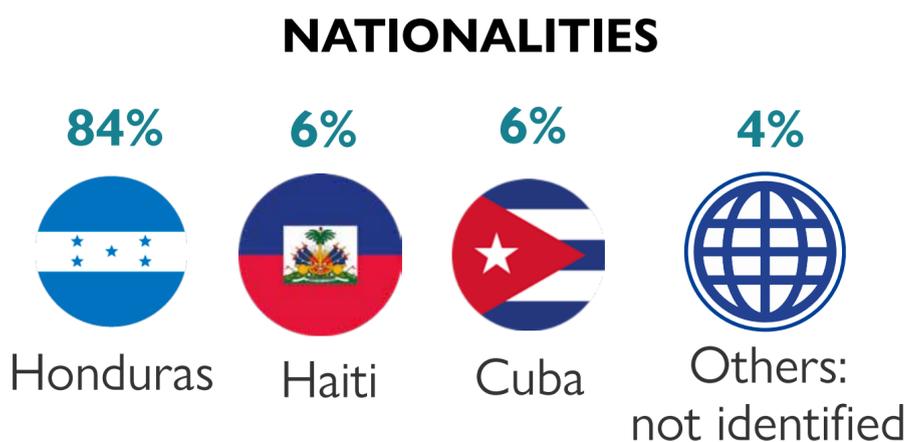
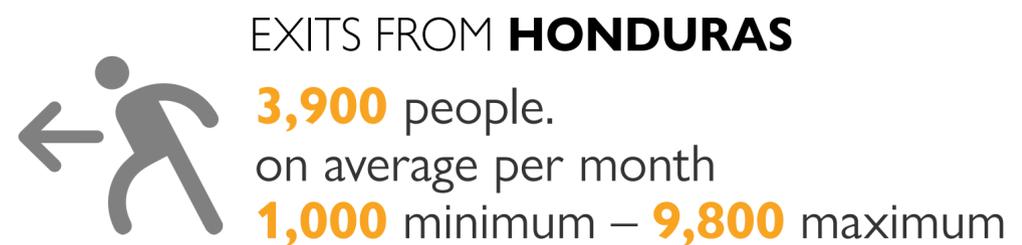
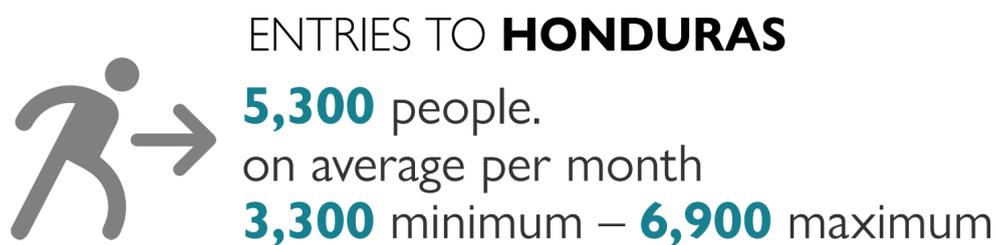


HIGHLIGHTS

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



Key informants did not identify stranded migrants at different border points.



The National Institute of Migration (INM) and humanitarian organizations quickly handled those cases.

Sources: 18 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 analyze trends in migration flows and the presence of migrants in specific locations during a specific period. Data were collected from interviews with strategically selected key informants, which were carried out remotely. Priority was given to information from the records of the National Institute of Migration (INM), the National Directorate of Police Services (DNSPF), Centre for Human Development (CDH), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), according to the border crossing points and the information available each month. The interviews were conducted in March 2021.

In addition, estimates were completed using information from the following institutions: The Departmental Economic Development Agency (ADED) of Valle, Mennonite Social Action Commission (CASM), National Commissioner for Human Rights (CONADEH), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), Directorate for Children, Adolescents and the Family (DINAF), the Migrant Houses of Omoa and Ocotepeque, Emergency Municipal Council, the Red Cross, Christian Agency for Integral Development of Honduras, and Centre for Care for the Returned Migrant (CAMR) Lima.

The data collected only show the perceptions of the key informants consulted; in some cases, they are the result of systematic records of field observations or migration control operations, so the data are interpreted as general approximations on the situation.

LOCATION HONDURAS



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.

SITUATIONAL CONTEXT



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



The social and economic context in Honduras has been affected by the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as those of hurricanes Eta and Iota. COVID-19 caused the implementation of a quarantine throughout the country starting on 12 March 2020¹. These measures made it impossible to perform informal work activities, affected several enterprises, and resulted in the closing of several family businesses in the communities near the border, causing even greater instability in the social fabric of these communities.



The area to the north -and, to a lesser extent, the west and south- were severely affected by hurricanes Eta and Iota, causing the loss of many homes (on 22 November 2020, estimated included 13,386 houses affected, 985 damaged, and 27 destroyed by hurricanes Eta and Iota)². The most affected areas became even more vulnerable zones, and many of the crops in the south and west were damaged beyond recovery.



In addition, the confinement generated more domestic violence in Honduran households (calls to 911 due to domestic violence increased by 16% during the pandemic)³ which, added to greater unemployment because of the COVID-19 crisis, and the loss of housing and rising food insecurity due to the hurricanes, generally resulted in a worse social, economic and family context. Moreover, the perceived flexibilization of the United States migration policy in the Honduran population has been identified as a factor that appears to contribute to the increase in migration to North America.

¹SICA (2020). Decrees and measures adopted by Honduras within the context of COVID-19. Regional COVID-19 Observatory.

<https://www.sica.int/coronavirus/observatorioSICACOVID19/medidas/honduras>

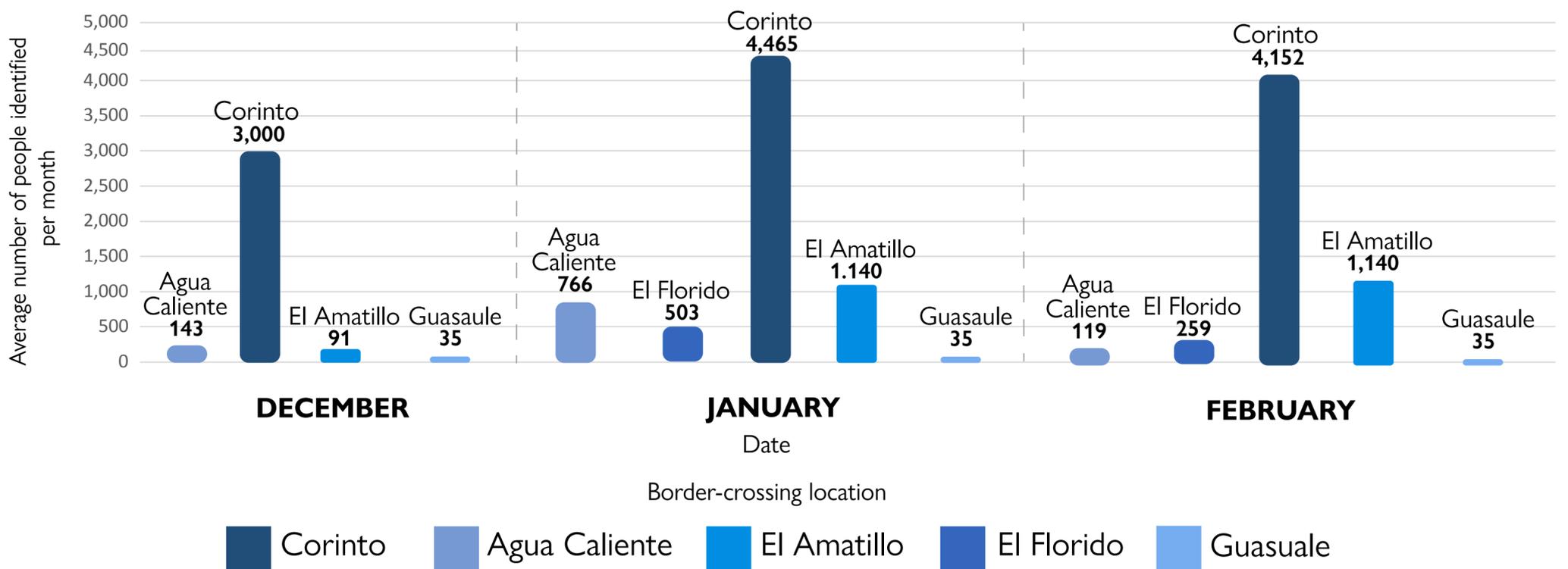
²Newsletter No. 21. COPECO, 2020.

³Secretariat of the Presidency (7 September 2020).

<https://presidencia.gob.hn/index.php/sala-de-prensa/8009-en-un-16-incrementan-las-llamadas-por-violencia-domestica-durante-la-pandemia>

INCOMING MIGRATION FLOWS

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

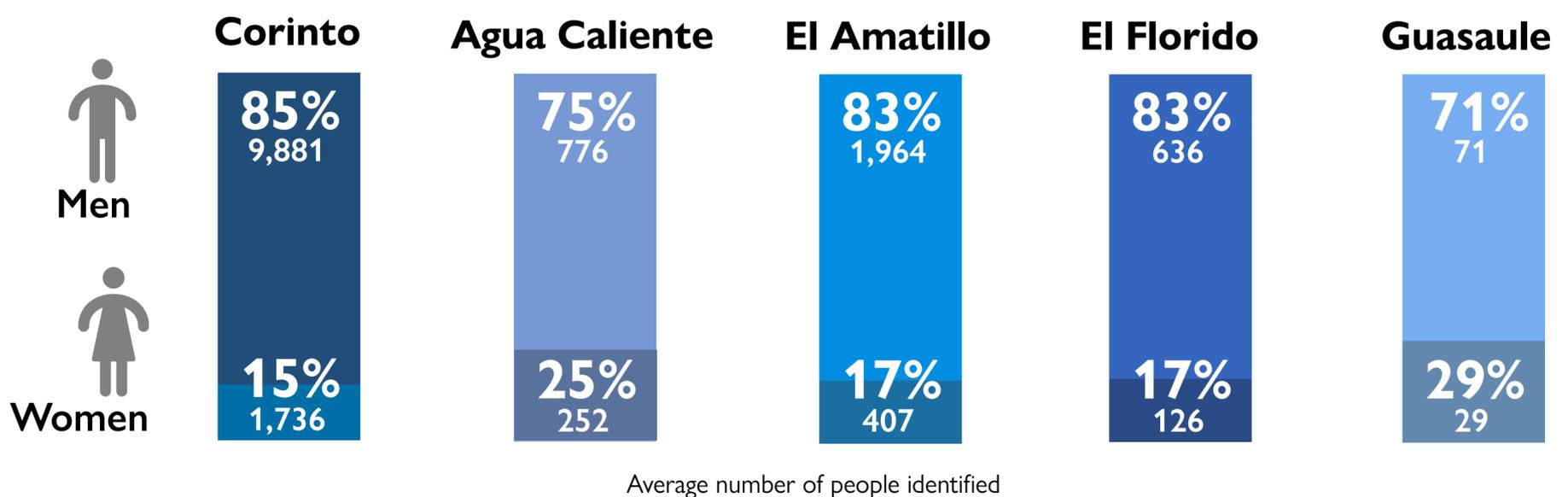


Source: Key informants. In Amatillo, the information between January and February was not itemized. No estimate was collected in El Florido in December, and information in Amatillo is partial.

Between December 2020 and February 2021, it was estimated that between 3,000 and 4,500 entries took place per month through the border crossing of Corinto following the return of people who migrated irregularly to Guatemala and were detained and returned in migration control operations in Guatemala because they did not meet the necessary requirements to travel in that country. This flow has been reduced compared to previous years. In addition, it was affected in December when several flights with returnees were cancelled due to the impact of hurricanes Eta and Iota.

On the other hand, in January the total estimate was over 2,000 entries through the border crossings of Amatillo, El Florido and Agua Caliente as a result of the caravan that took place during that month. Finally, about 1,100 entries were recorded through the Amatillo border crossing in February. Migration flows in the Amatillo border crossing are characterized by groups composed of extra-regional migrants. Key informants mentioned that migration flows have decreased in Amatillo and moved to the border crossing of Trojes, El Paraíso, due to the conflicts that happened in 2020 in Amatillo and the increase in police controls. In January and February 2021, the flows increased compared to December 2020 thanks to the relaxation of COVID-19 containment measures in several countries, and to the perception of a more flexible migration policy in the United States.

Approximation of migrants entering irregularly by gender and per border crossing location (December 2020 – February 2021)

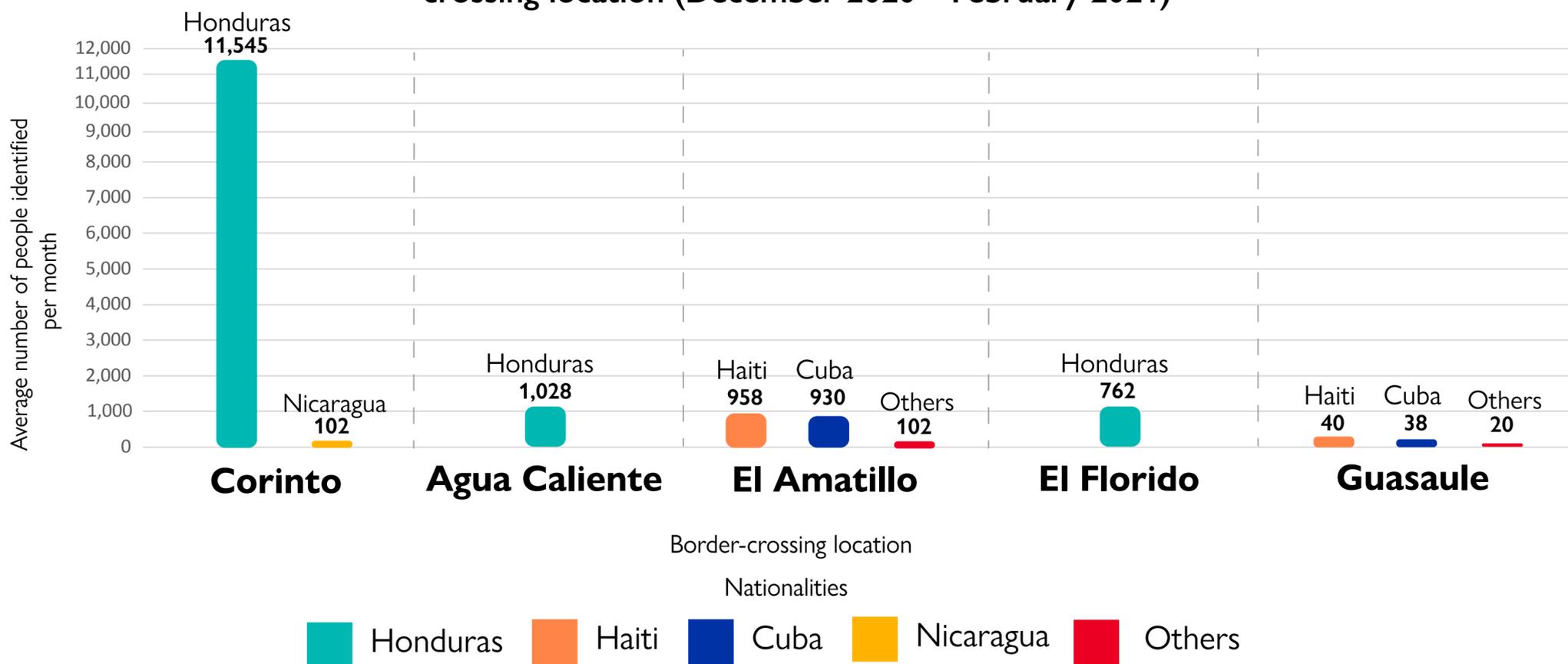


Source: Key informants.

As for the composition of the migration flows by gender, 84 percent of those people who entered Honduras irregularly between December 2020 and February 2021 were men. This distribution is similar to that of other border crossing points.

INCOMING MIGRATION FLOWS

Approximation of migrants entering irregularly by nationality and per border crossing location (December 2020 – February 2021)



Source: Key informants.

With respect to the nationalities detected, 84 percent of the people are from Honduras. The remaining 16 percent corresponds mostly to migrants from Haiti and Cuba who entered mainly through the border crossing point of Amatillo. Finally, there are some migrants from Nicaragua or Africa, but key informants could not identify them in more detail.

Estimates of persons in vulnerable situations identified in irregular migration flows (December 2020 – February 2021)



Source: Key informants.

Regarding people in vulnerable conditions, field staff limitations persist to be able to identify differentiated profiles, so there is a quantitative approach according to the capabilities of each key informant.

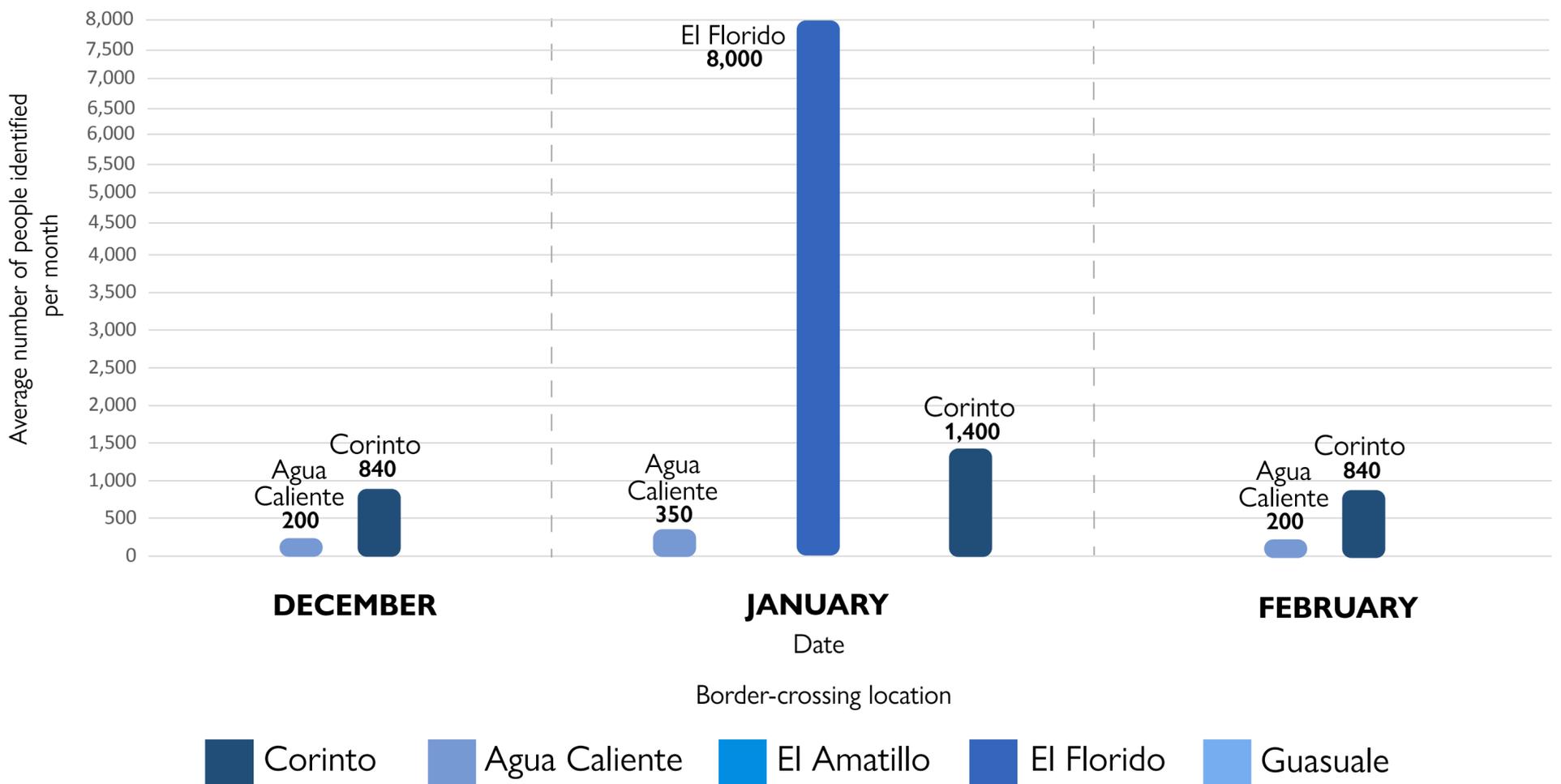
Minors represent the most represented category of persons identified in vulnerable situations, numbering over 3,900 individuals. Therefore, minors represent at least 25 percent of the migration flows, a figure that is probably underestimated due to the issue with data collection in December in the Corinto border crossing.

Indeed, at the Corinto border, this number rose to 35 percent in January and February.

A reliable quantification could not be performed regarding the presence of people in other vulnerable situations. However, 226 internally displaced people were identified (as potential migrants).

OUTGOING MIGRATION FLOWS

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



Source: Key informants and secondary sources consulted.

In El Florido there are no reports for the months of December and February.

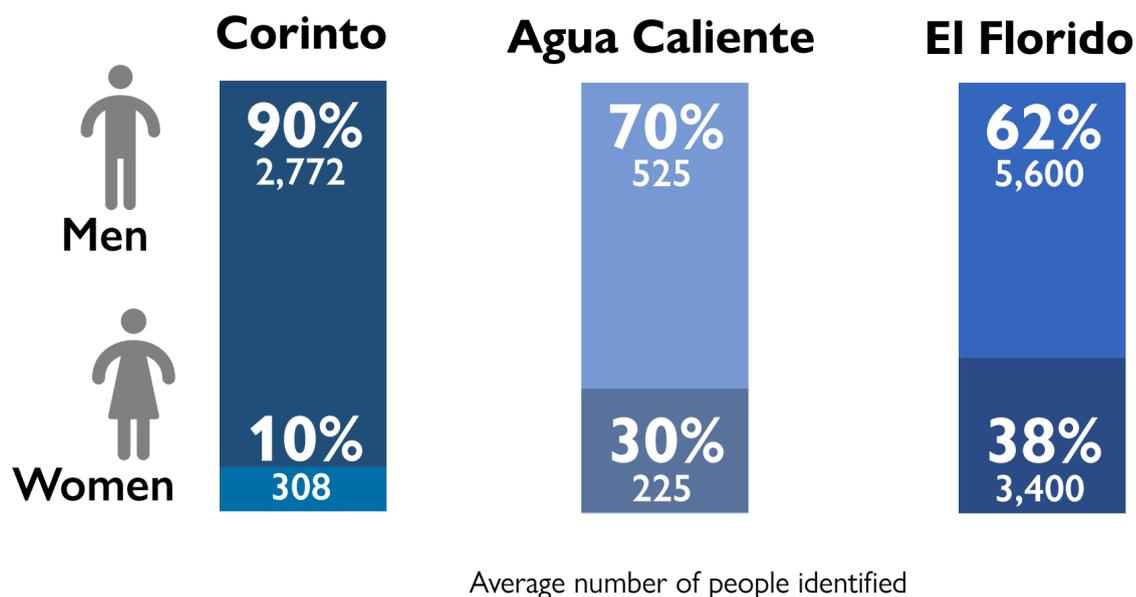
In Amatillo, there are no reports from any institution regarding departures, since this border has not been historically relevant for outgoing flows

In Guasuale there is no available information.

The main flow of people leaving during the period was identified in January in El Florido, with about 8,000 people. This flow corresponds to the January caravan that met at the Corinto border location and then moved to the El Florido border location, since there were fewer police checkpoints on the border.

In Corinto, the outgoing migration flow has ranged from 800 to 1,400 people per month between December 2020 and February 2021. In Agua Caliente it was reported that between 200 and 350 people were leaving each month.

Approximation of migrants leaving irregularly by gender and per border crossing location (December 2020 – February 2021)



Source: Key informants and secondary sources consulted.

There is no information for El Amatillo and Guasuale

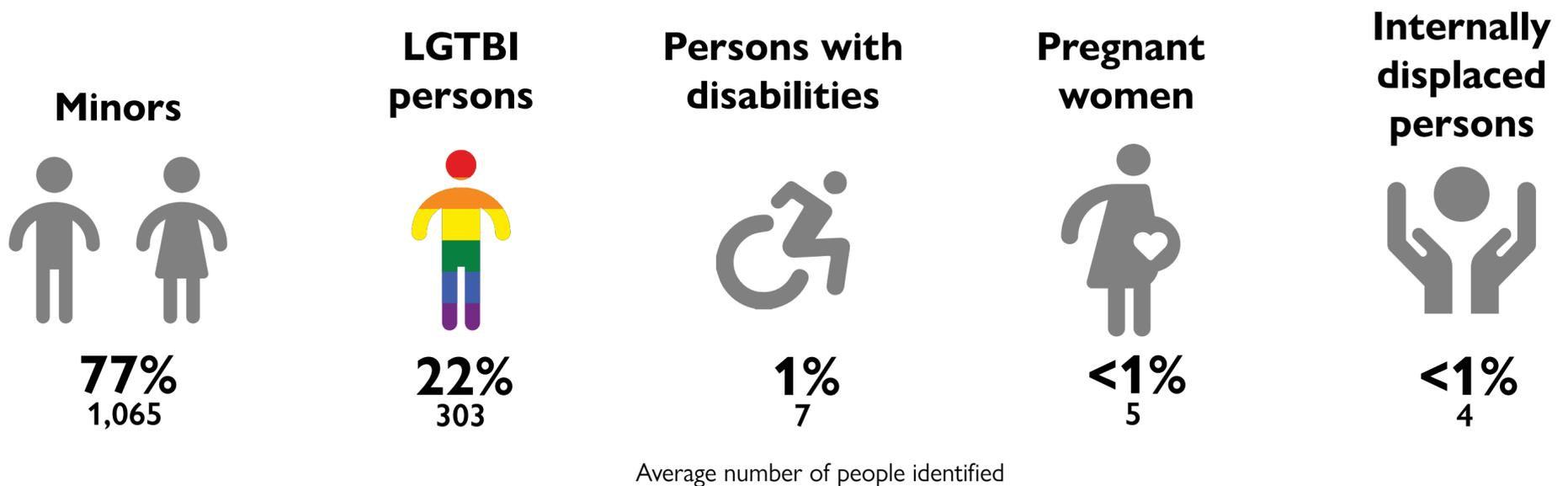
As for the composition of the migration flow by gender, 75 percent of those leaving Honduras irregularly are men. In Corinto, 90 percent of those leaving are men, compared to 70 percent in El Florido.

OUTGOING MIGRATION FLOWS

Migration flows identified as outgoing are composed almost entirely of Honduran nationals.

The vast majority of key informants estimate that the search for better socioeconomic opportunities is the main driver for these migrants. The consequences of hurricanes ETA and IOTA in November 2020 also seem to have generated an increase in departures.

Estimates of persons in vulnerable situations identified in irregular migration flows (December 2020 – February 2021)



Source: Key informants.

Regarding people in vulnerable conditions, field staff limitations persist to be able to identify differentiated profiles, so there is a quantitative approach according to the capabilities of each key informant.

Minors make up the most represented category of persons identified in vulnerable conditions, numbering over 1,065 individuals. Therefore, minors represent at least 9 percent of these migration flows.

This proportion of minors is a change in the migrant population, with the presence of family nuclei.

A reliable quantification could not be performed regarding the presence of people in other vulnerable conditions. However, 300 of the 8,000 individuals (4 percent) who left from El Florido in January were identified as LGBTI.

CONCLUSIONS



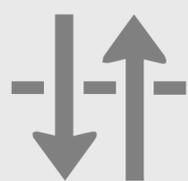
The flows into Honduras are interpreted mostly as a return flow of Honduran migrants who left the country in a caravan, with greater dynamism observed in the border crossing points of El Florido and Corinto. This flow is mainly represented by men. In addition, a significant proportion of minors is highlighted.



The main outgoing flow during this period was concentrated on the border crossing of El Florido because of a caravan in January. However, outgoing flows were also significant during this period on the border crossing of Corinto. Notably, there were no reports in the border crossing of El Florido in December and February. Most outgoing flows are interpreted as economic migration or migration for family reunification purposes. The consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic and hurricanes ETA and IOTA might have had an impact on the outgoing flows.



Key informants did not identify stranded people during this period. This finding is related, as well as the decrease in returns, to a better understanding of departure requirements by migrants, and the assistance provided by the National Institute of Migration (INM) and humanitarian organizations.



Key informants consider that monitoring irregular migrant flows is quite underestimated. They mention that a significant number of migrants has begun to leave Honduras regularly, so they are not counted as irregular migrants -even though they will have to continue their journey to Mexico irregularly.



One highlighted aspect is the limitation of key informants to identify profiles in vulnerable situations, with the exception of minors.



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.