BASELINE ASSESSMENT OF IRREGULAR MIGRATION FLOWS AND MOBILITY MONITORING IN BORDER CROSSING POINTS WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19

HONDURAS: ROUND 4 - MARCH 2021
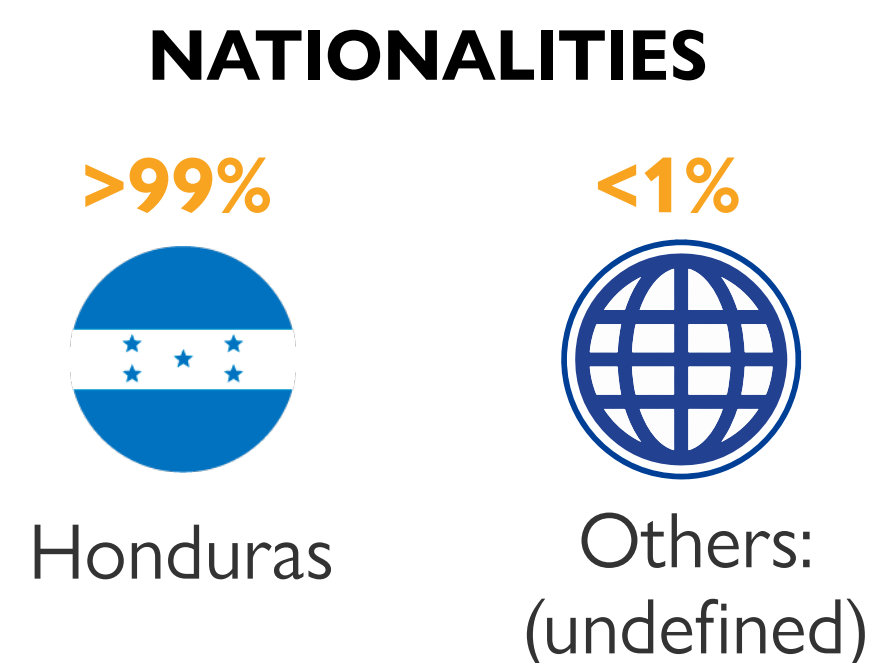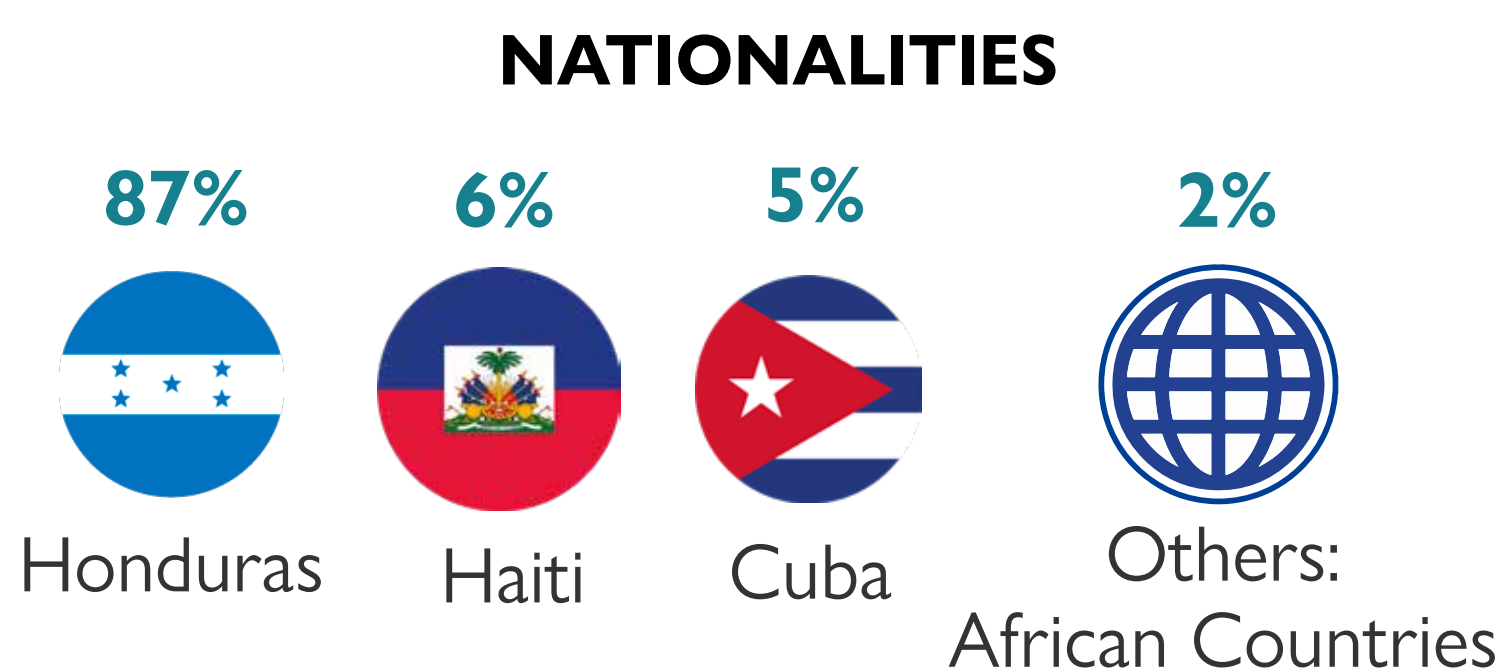
DTM
IOM • OIM
UN MIGRATION

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.

ENTRIES TO **HONDURAS**
6.500 persons

EXITS FROM **HONDURAS**
910 persons

GENDER

Men	Women
87%	**13%**

GENDER

Men	Women
84%	**16%**

NATIONALITIES

87%	6%	5%	2%
Honduras	Haiti	Cuba	Others: African Countries

NATIONALITIES

>99%	<1%
Honduras	Others: (undefined)

Source: Key informants

STRANDED POPULATION

The key informants did not identify stranded migrants at the different border crossing locations.

BASELINE ASSESSMENT OF IRREGULAR MIGRATION FLOWS AND MOBILITY MONITORING IN BORDER CROSSING POINTS WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19. HONDURAS: ROUND 4 - MARCH 2021

1

Sources: 17 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. Priority was given to information recorded by the National Directorate of Border Police Services (DNSPF), the Migrant House, the Returned Migrant Service Center (CAMR), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR), according to the information available each month for the different border crossing locations. The interviews were held in April 2021.

In addition, the estimates were completed based on information provided by the following institutions: the Provincial Economic Development Agency

Foundation (ADED) from Valle; the Chancellery; the National Human Rights Commission (CONADEH); the Directorate of Childhood, Adolescence, and Family Matters (DINAF); the Red Cross; and the Christian Organization for the Comprehensive Development of Honduras.

The data gathered are the result of systematic records of field observations or migratory control operations, or reflect the perception of the key informants consulted. In both cases, the estimates may be biased due to the difficulty of estimating irregular migration flows not recorded by the authorities. In addition, significant discrepancies exist between the population flows estimated by the different key informants, in both quantitative and qualitative terms, and the information available does not allow the quality of same to be determined. Therefore, the results presented in this Report are general approximations of the situation.
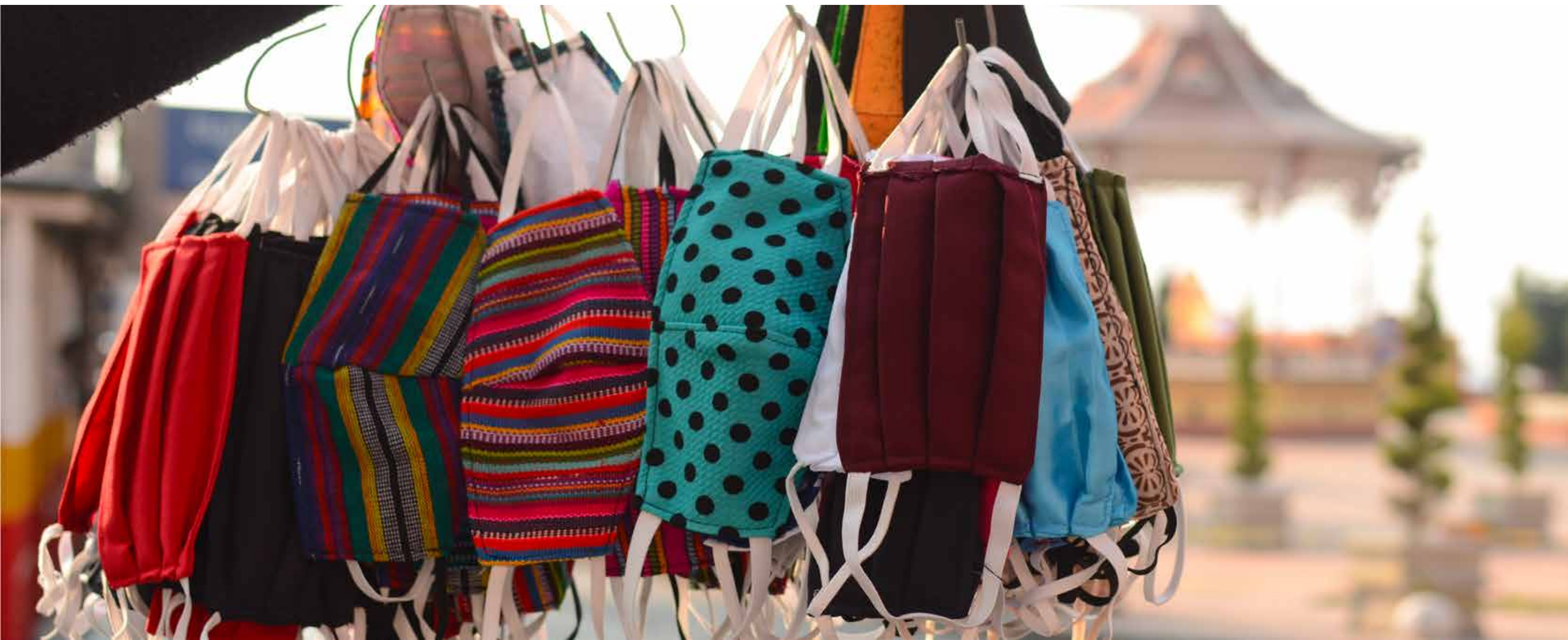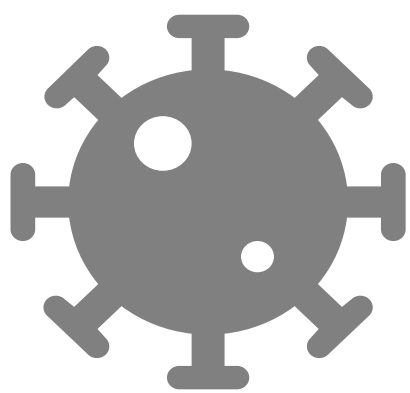
LOCATION

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.

BASELINE ASSESSMENT OF IRREGULAR MIGRATION FLOWS AND MOBILITY MONITORING IN BORDER CROSSING POINTS WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19. HONDURAS: ROUND 4 - MARCH 2021
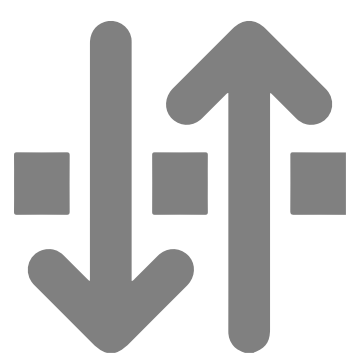
2

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

The social and economic context of Honduras has been affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic and by Hurricanes Eta and Iota. The Pandemic caused the imposition of a nationwide quarantine starting on 12 March 2020.[1] This measure impeded informal employment activities, affected business ventures, and caused the closure of many small family businesses in border communities, thus generating greater social instability in the different communities.[2]

The Northern Region is still recovering from the damage caused by Hurricanes Eta and Iota, and many families that lost their homes are still affected by a high level of vulnerability. In addition, various humanitarian assistance organizations began to leave the area, thus leaving the affected families without assistance. The Western and Southern Regions are still affected by the damage caused by the hurricanes, especially crop destruction. There still is no sustained economic recovery that can improve conditions with respect to income and employment, and there remains a high level of uncertainty regarding the recovery of the economy in the border communities.
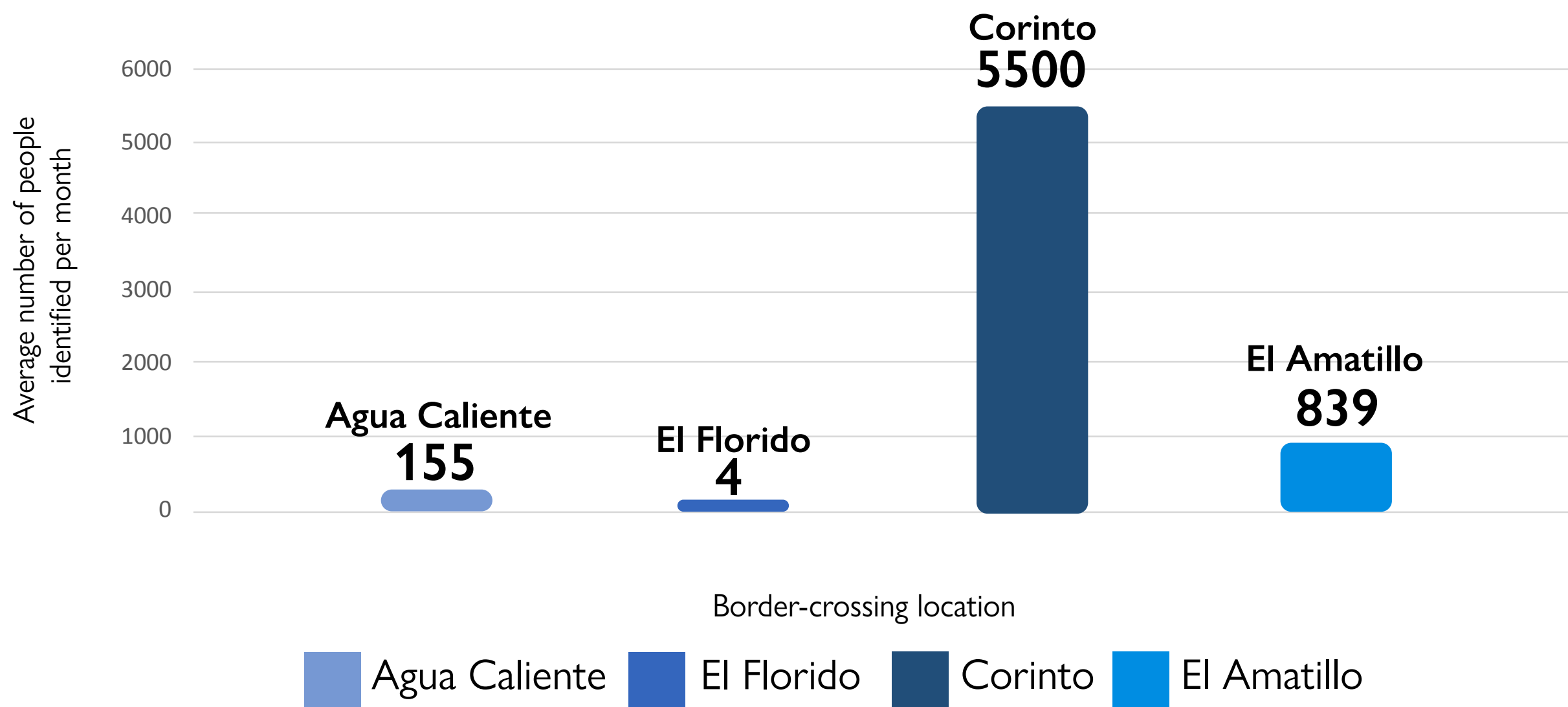
Due to Guatemalan migratory policy, the migrant caravan modality and the routes used are changing. Migrants expressed their intent to leave in small groups through unofficial border crossing points, and not in caravans as was done on between 30 and 31 March 2021. Comprised of around 300 persons, this last caravan attracted fewer people than previous caravans. A decrease has also been noted in the incoming flow of irregular migrants, although it is not known if this is due to migrants' entering the country regularly.

---

[1] SICA: Regional COVID-19 Observatory. Decrees and Measures Adopted by Honduras in the Context of the COVID-19 Pandemic (2020).
[2] Honduras-Baseline Assessment Of Migration Flows And Mobiity Tracking Within The Context Of COVID-19 Report #3 (December, 2020-February 2021)

BASELINE ASSESSMENT OF IRREGULAR MIGRATION FLOWS AND MOBILITY MONITORING IN BORDER CROSSING POINTS WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19. HONDURAS: ROUND 4 - MARCH 2021

3

Monthly approximation of migrants entering irregularly per border crossing location (March 2021)

Average number of people identified per month

- Agua Caliente: 155
- El Florido: 4
- Corinto: 5500
- El Amatillo: 839

Border-crossing location

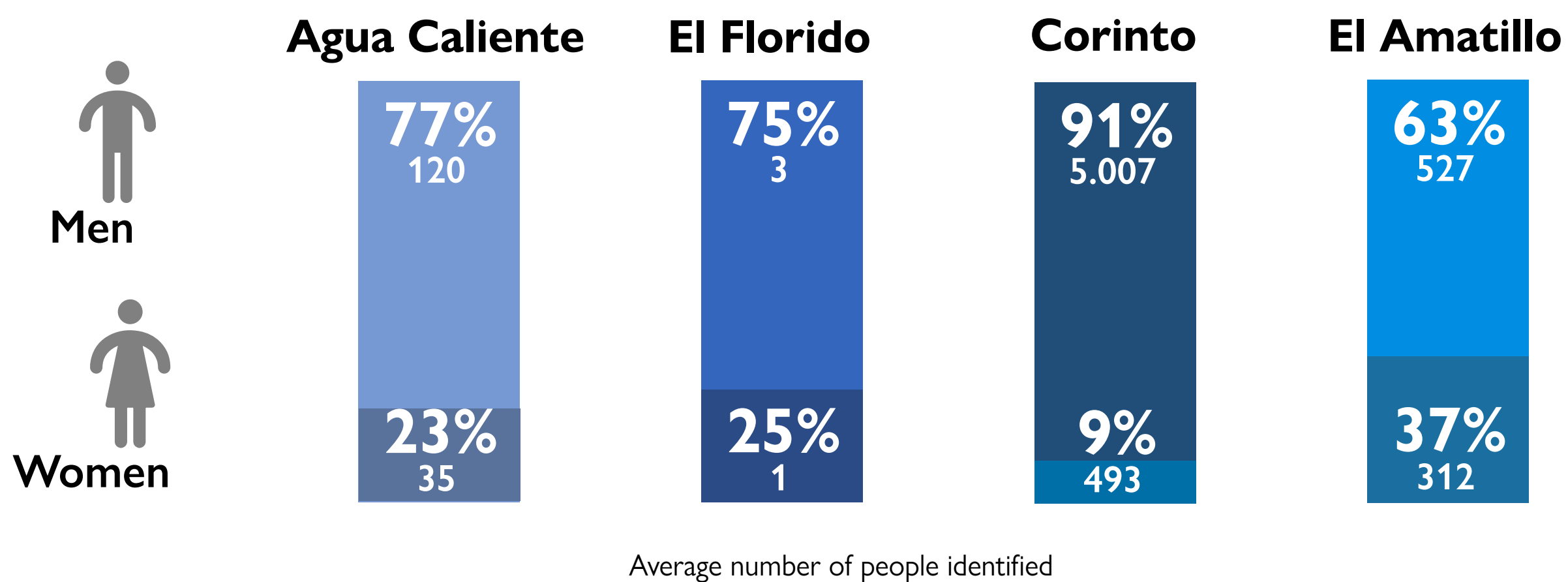Legend: Agua Caliente | El Florido | Corinto | El Amatillo

Source: Key informants.

It is estimated that 6,500 persons entered through the border crossing locations covered by the study. The vast majority entered overland through the Corinto crossing due to the return of migrants, consisting of approximately 5,200 people.

The key informants also estimated that 840 persons entered at El Amatillo border crossing.

It should be noted that, according to the key informants, this flow could be underestimated due to migrants who now cross the border at Trojes and Las Manos to avoid the migration controls at El Amatillo. It is estimated that at least 2,000 persons entered through said points during the past month.
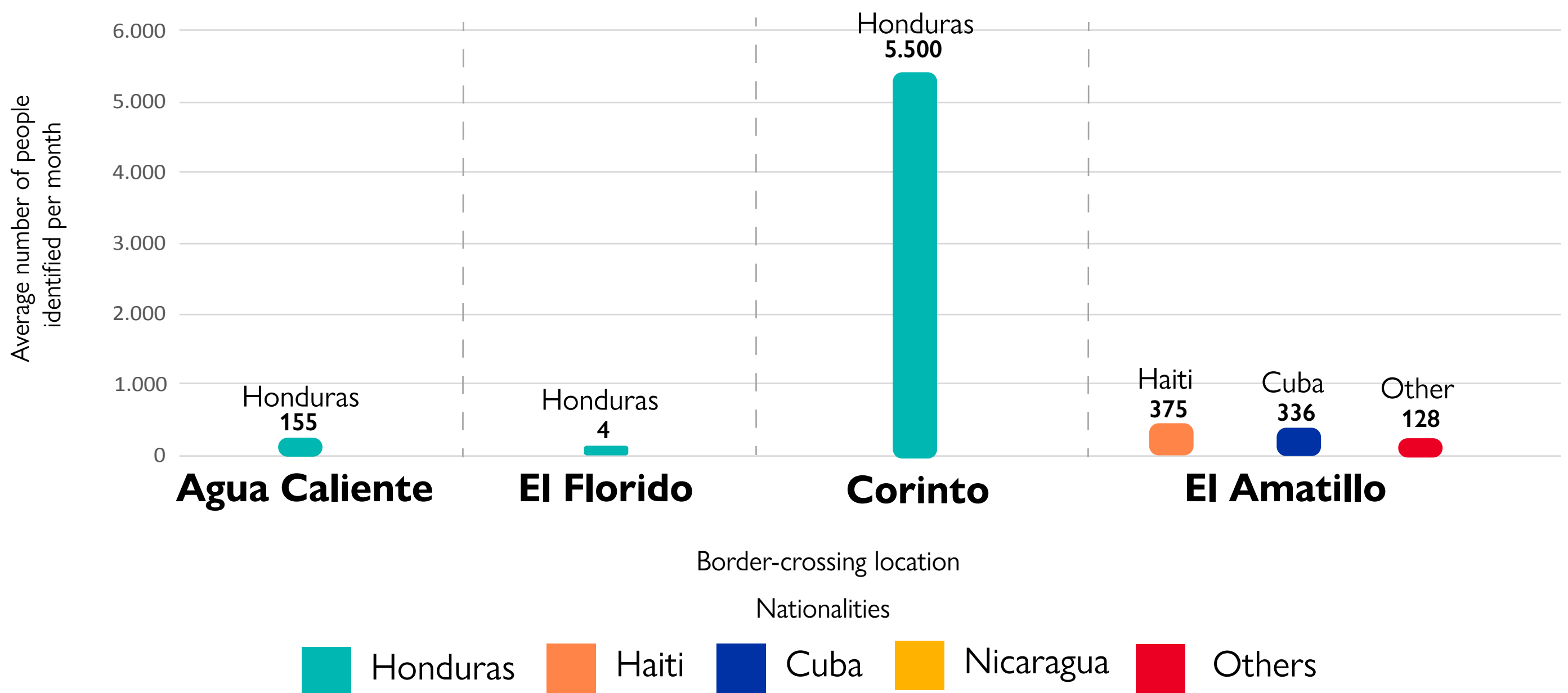
Approximation of migrants entering irregularly by gender and per border crossing location (March 2021)

	Agua Caliente	El Florido	Corinto	El Amatillo
Men	77% 120	75% 3	91% 5.007	63% 527
Women	23% 35	25% 1	9% 493	37% 312

Average number of people identified

Source: Key informants.

BASELINE ASSESSMENT OF IRREGULAR MIGRATION FLOWS AND MOBILITY MONITORING IN BORDER CROSSING POINTS WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19. HONDURAS: ROUND 4 - MARCH 2021

4

Approximation of migrants entering irregularly by nationality and per border crossing location (March 2021)

Average number of people identified per month

```
6.000

5.000

4.000

3.000

2.000

1.000                                        Honduras
                                              5.500

   0
```

Honduras
155

Honduras
4

Haiti
375

Cuba
336

Other
128

Agua Caliente   **El Florido**   **Corinto**   **El Amatillo**

Border-crossing location

Nationalities

■ Honduras   ■ Haiti   ■ Cuba   ■ Nicaragua   ■ Others

Source: Key informants.

Regarding the nationalities detected, 87 percent of the persons were Hondurans, with the vast majority of them entering through the Corinto border crossing.

Of the remaining 13 percent (approximately 839 persons), most were nationals from Haiti, Cuba, or African countries (whom the key informants could not identify with greater detail) who entered at El Amatillo border crossing location. Political conflicts and poverty levels were mentioned by these persons as their motives for migrating.
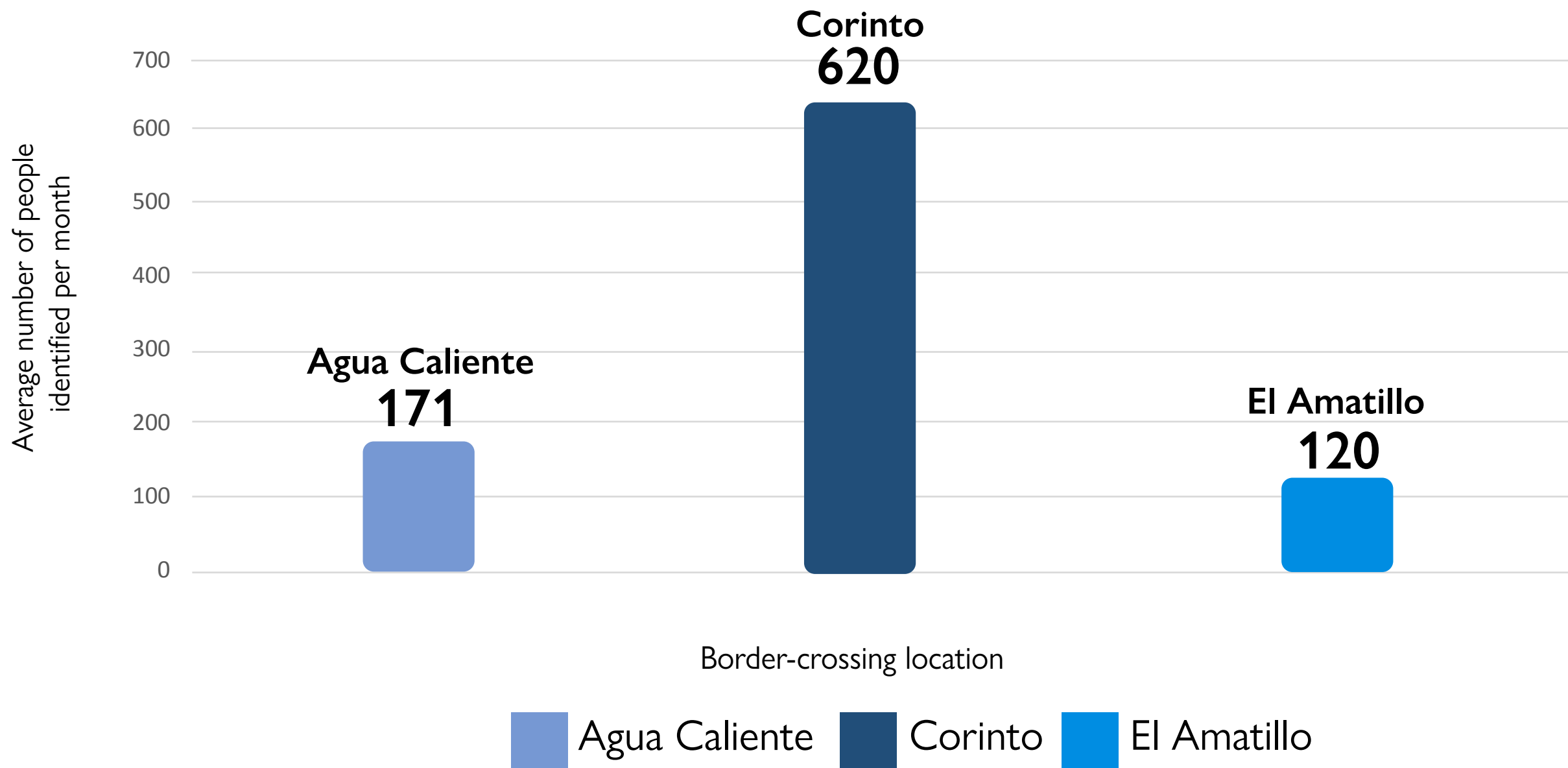
With respect to persons in vulnerable conditions, the limitations of the field personnel for identifying differentiated profiles persist, which results in quantitative approximations according to the capacities of each key informant.

Underage persons represent the category with the greatest number of persons identified as being in vulnerable condition. Underage persons represented 37 percent of the migration flow. This percentage reached 41 percent at Corinto, while only 11 percent at El Amatillo. At Agua Caliente, 70 percent of the returnees from Guatemala were unaccompanied minors, with the remaining 30 percent represented by exit prohibitions.

A reliable quantification regarding the presence of other vulnerable groups could not be generated.

BASELINE ASSESSMENT OF IRREGULAR MIGRATION FLOWS AND MOBILITY MONITORING IN BORDER CROSSING POINTS WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19. HONDURAS: ROUND 4 - MARCH 2021

5

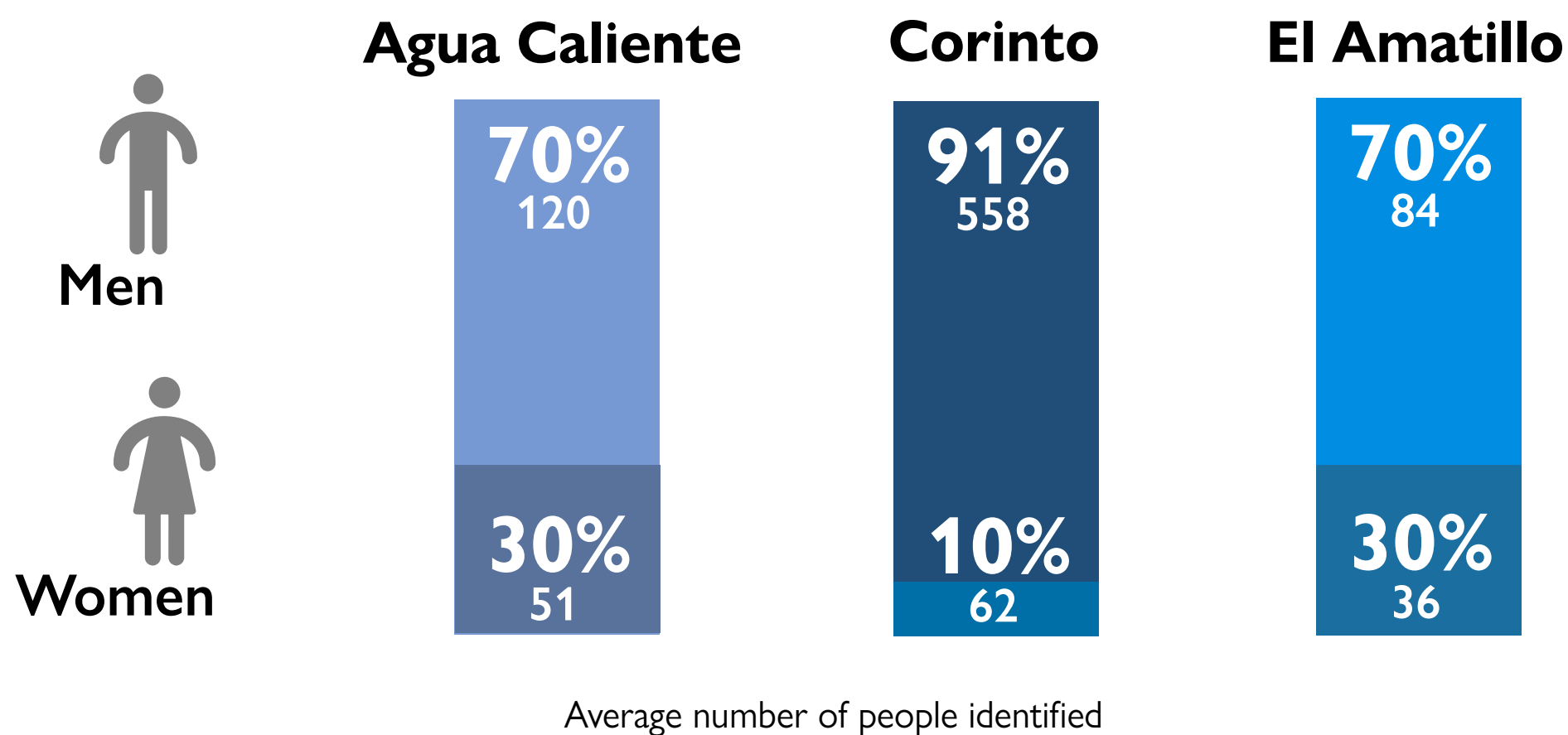### Monthly approximation of persons leaving irregularly per border crossing location (March 2021)

Source: Key Informants and Secondary Sources Consulted.
Note: No information is available for El Florido due to gaps in information.

The highest number of outgoing persons during March was identified at the Corinto border crossing, with more than 600 persons. Around 300 migrants gathered between 30 and 31 March and attempted to leave both in caravan and in small groups.

The key informants estimated that less than 1,000 persons left Honduras during March. This figure could be underestimated, however, due to the use of unofficial border crossing points, which limits the possibility of monitoring outgoing flows. Based on historic monitoring, the Red Cross estimates that 16,000 persons could be crossing this border each month.

Approximation of migrants leaving irregularly by gender and per border crossing location (March 2021)

Source: Key Informants and Secondary Sources Consulted.
Note: No information is available for El Florido due to gaps in information.

Regarding the gender composition of the migratory flow, 75 percent of the persons leaving Honduras with irregular status were men. At Corinto, 90 percent of the outgoing persons were men, as opposed to 70 percent at Agua Caliente and El Amatillo.

BASELINE ASSESSMENT OF IRREGULAR MIGRATION FLOWS AND MOBILITY MONITORING IN BORDER
CROSSING POINTS WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19. HONDURAS: ROUND 4 - MARCH 2021

6

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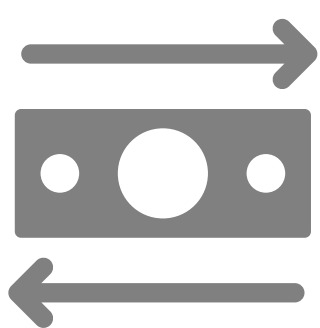
NATIONALITIES

The outgoing migratory flow identified was comprised almost entirely of Hondurans.

Honduras

The great majority of the key informants stated that the search for better socioeconomic and labor opportunities was the main motive for migrating. At El Amatillo border crossing, it was noted that some people chose to enter El Salvador irregularly due to the high cost of the PCR COVID-19 Test. In the Northern Region, the lasting impacts of the disasters caused by Hurricanes Eta and Iota, drug smuggling activity, and insecurity constitute internal displacement factors that drove people to migrante internationally.

With respect to persons in vulnerable conditions, the limitations of the field personnel for identifying differentiated profiles persist, which results in quantitative approximations according to the capacities of each key informant. The key informants only identified 25 underage persons, representing 3 percent of the outgoing migration flow. A reliable quantification regarding the presence of other vulnerable groups could not be generated.

BASELINE ASSESSMENT OF IRREGULAR MIGRATION FLOWS AND MOBILITY MONITORING IN BORDER CROSSING POINTS WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF COVID-19. HONDURAS: ROUND 4 - MARCH 2021
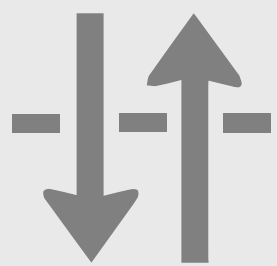
7

The flow of people entering Honduras is seen mostly as a return flow of Honduran migrants who left the country in a caravan or small group. It should also be noted that there was a significant incoming flow of Haitians, Cubans, and Africans through El Amatillo.

The main outgoing flow during March occurred at the Corinto border crossing. Almost all of the persons who left were Hondurans. The majority of the outgoing flow is interpreted as migration for economic or family reunification purposes. The effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Hurricanes Eta and Iota, and the levels of insecurity may have had an impact on the outgoing flow.

The key informants did not identify any stranded migrants during the month of March.

The key informants considered that the monitoring of irregular migrant flows is significantly underestimated. With respect to outgoing flows, it should be noted that migrants have begun to use the Trojes and Las Manos crossing points instead of the border crossing at El Amatillo. Monitoring of outgoing flows was hampered by the migrants' use of unofficial border crossing points instead of caravans.

The limitations of the key informants for identifying vulnerable profiles are highlighted, except in the case of underage persons.

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

IOM UN MIGRATION

WESTERN HEMISPHERE PROGRAM