

▶ Highlights

i **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.

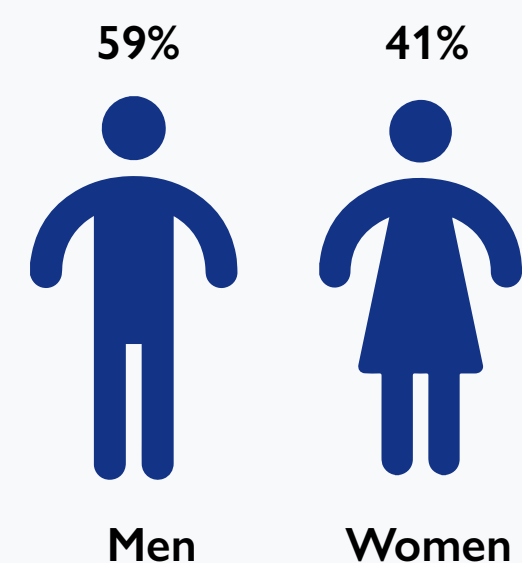
i **ENTRIES TO MEXICO¹:**

The border locations in which entry reports were made by key informants were Ciudad Hidalgo, El Ceibo, and Frontera Corozal.



Entries to Mexico:
17,400 migrants

Gender

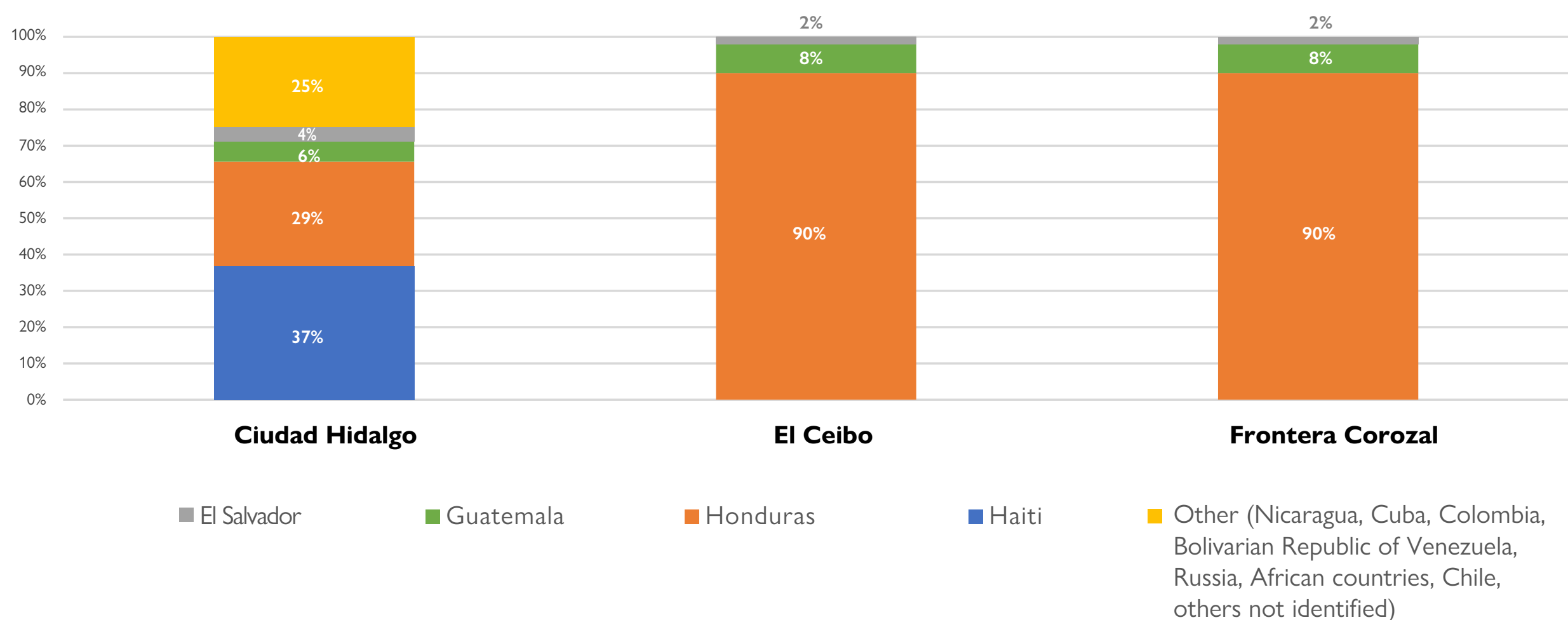


Nationalities



Other (Nicaragua, Cuba, Colombia, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Russia, African countries, Chile, others not identified)

Maximum value by nationality



¹ This report does not contemplate the quantification or characterization of irregular cross-border migration flows.

EXITS FROM MEXICO

No significant groups of migrants leaving irregularly were identified. However, there are migrants who voluntarily decide to return in a regular manner to their country of origin for various reasons, such as precarious economic conditions in transit, assaults, extortion, and other dangers along the route. Also, cases of deportations were identified.

STRANDED POPULATION

Stranded population refers to migrants who are not in a position to return to their country of origin, to regularize their situation in the country in which they reside or to access regular migration routes that allow them to move to another country. The term can also refer to migrants who are stranded in the country of destination, of transit or of origin, for humanitarian or security reasons, and who, consequently, cannot return home or continue the journey to another place².

No stranded migrants were identified.

METHODOLOGY

Sources: 9 Key informants

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. Information was obtained from the National Institute of Migration (INM), the Mexican Red Cross, the Directorate of Migration and International Policy of the Municipality of Tapachula, the El Ceibo Shelter, the Casa del Caminante Shelter, Doctors of the World, the Office for the Protection of Children, Adolescents and Families of the System for the Integral Development of the Family (DIF), the Suchiate Municipality, the Jesuit Refugee Service, and local civil society organizations in Ciudad Hidalgo and Tenosique.

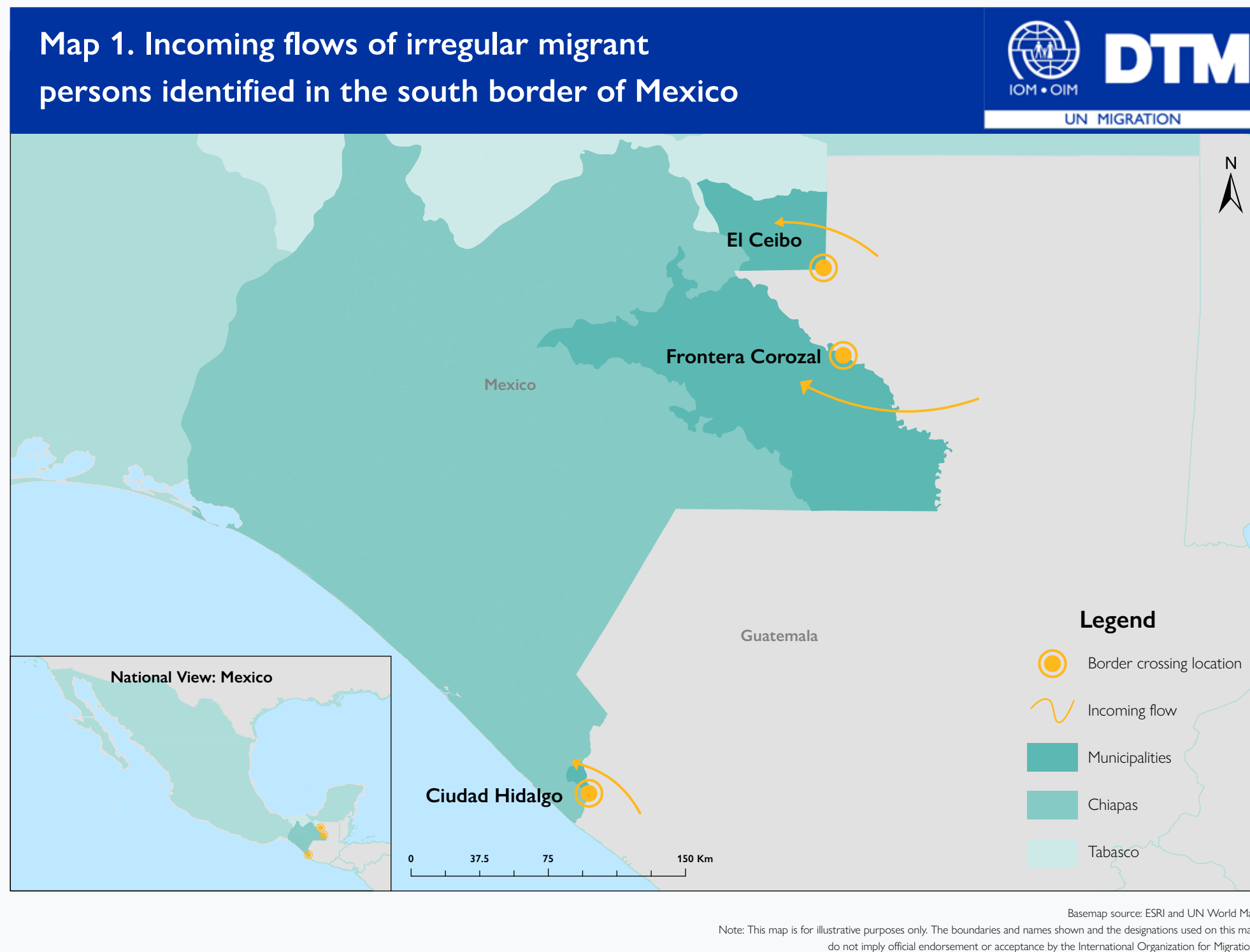
The data collected are the result of systematic records of field observations, migration control operations, or show the perception of the key informants consulted. For the

calculation and quantification of the nationalities identified for entries and exits from Mexico, the total migration flows reported in the round by locality and key informants are considered, with which a calculation of the maximum value per nationality, locality and current round is elaborated, therefore, the data on nationalities differs from the total entries and the other variables analyzed.

Estimates may be biased due to the difficulty of quantifying irregular flows not recorded by key informants. Additionally, there are important discrepancies between the estimates of population flows from the different key informants, in quantitative and qualitative terms. Therefore, the results of this report are general approximations of the situation.

² IOM. IOM Glossary on Migration (Geneva, 2019)

LOCATION



SITUATIONAL CONTEXT



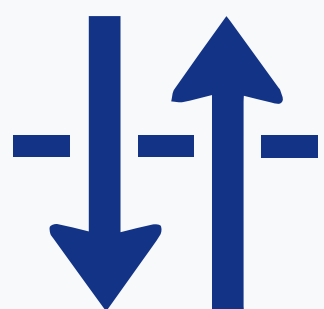
At the beginning of July, a public hearing was held with various civil society organizations that advocate and defend the human rights of persons in the context of human mobility, the Mexican State and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR).



The main concerns of civil society were that the Mexican government has prioritized military presence at the borders through the deployment of National Guard elements and the assignment of military profiles in INM entities.



They also denounced the securitization approach taken by the Mexican government to address the migration phenomenon. Another situation they made visible was the violation of the principle of non-refoulement, as Mexico has promoted "pushbacks" or hot returns. These practices do not guarantee the right to apply for refugee status in Mexico³.



On the other hand, the Mexican Government argued that it has worked on a strengthening plan for the attention of refugees entering through the southern border with the support of the UNHCR and has also provide training for officials regarding human rights of migrants. The government also acknowledged that the administrative capacities of the institutions have been overwhelmed but argued that they are working in collaboration with various international organizations such as the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the UNHCR.



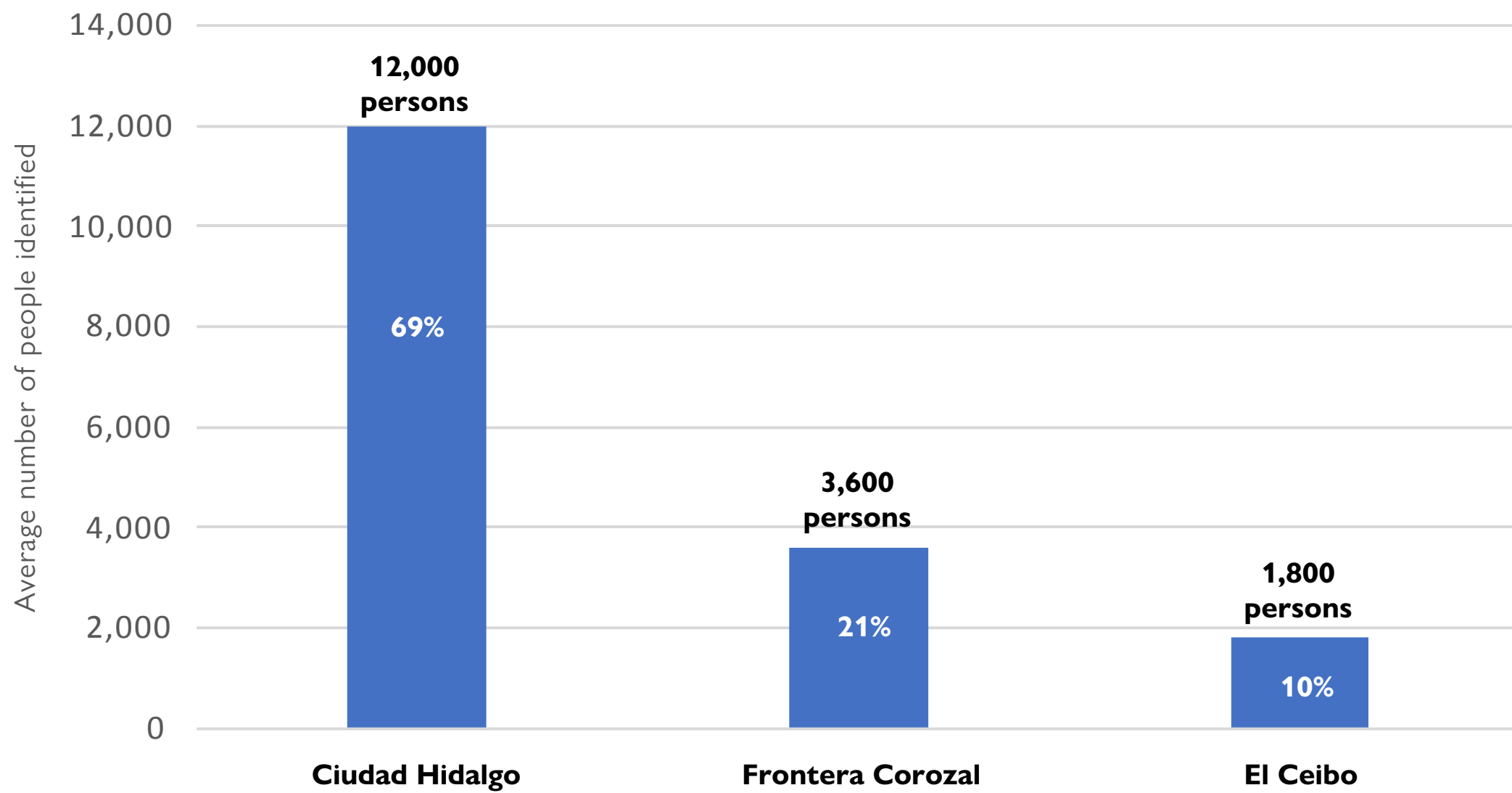
Finally, COVID-19 cases have increased in Mexico. Several governmental institutions such as the State Attorney's Office for the Protection of the Family and the Rights of Children and Adolescents (PROFADE) and the Mexican Commission for Refugee Aid (COMAR) were affected by the health crisis in July.

³ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Protection of the Human Rights of Persons in a Situation of Human Mobility in Mexico (2021)



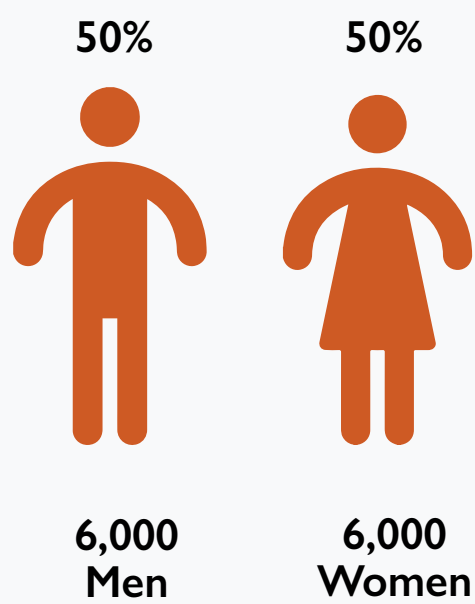
INCOMING MIGRATION FLOWS

Monthly estimate of migrants entering irregularly by border location (July 2021)

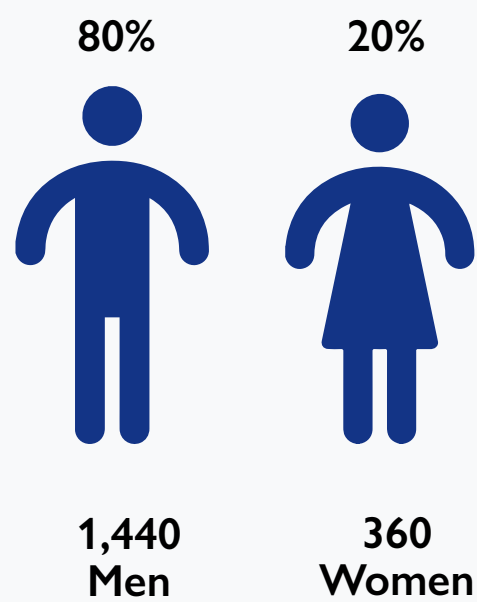


With respect to incoming migration flows, data provided by key informants showed that, in July, the main border entry point was Ciudad Hidalgo with 12,000 entries, followed by Frontera Corozal with 3,600 people, and the lowest flow was reported in El Ceibo with 1,800 people entering.

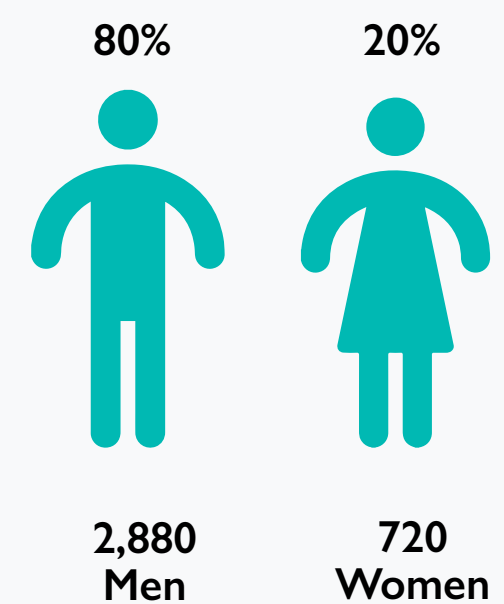
Ciudad Hidalgo



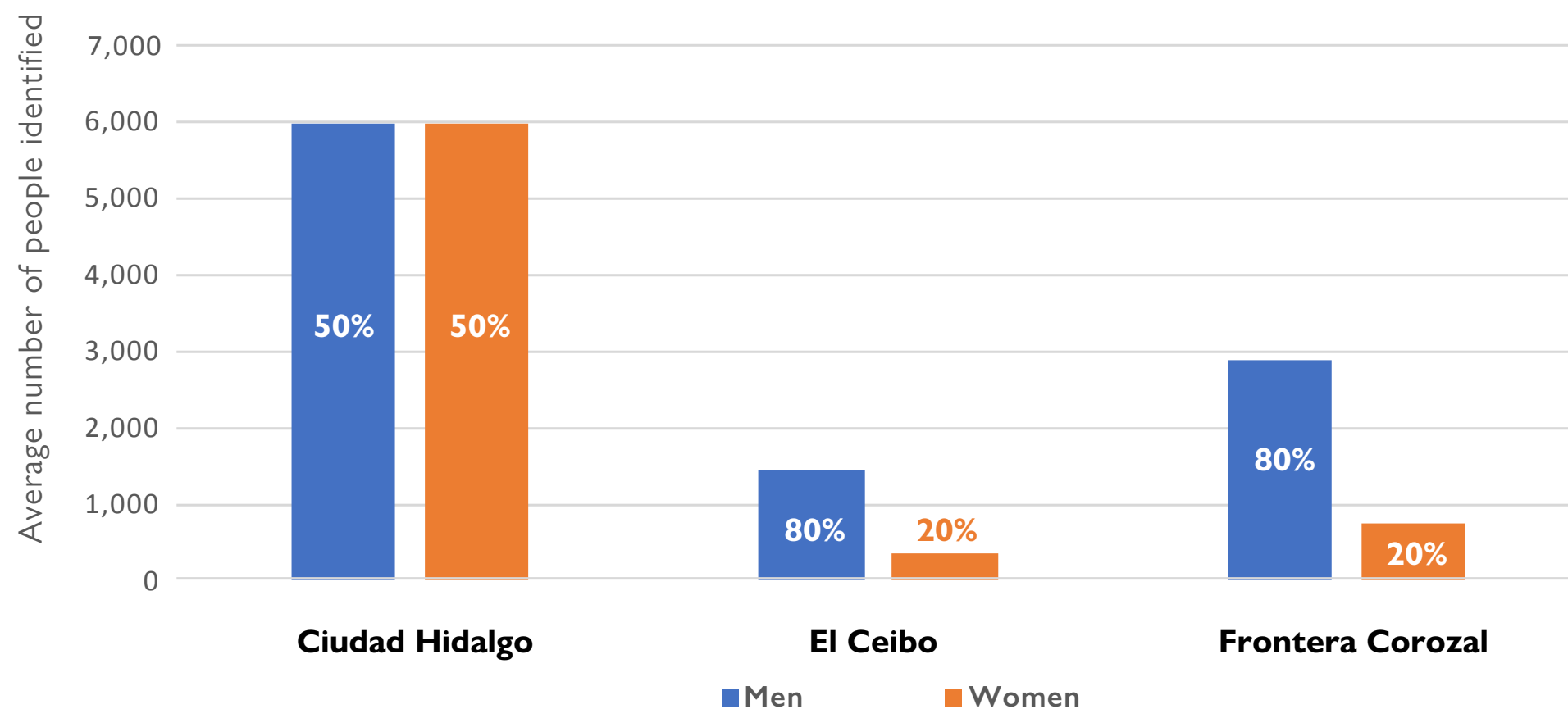
El Ceibo



Frontera Corozal



Estimate of entries of irregular migrants by gender and border location (July, 2021)



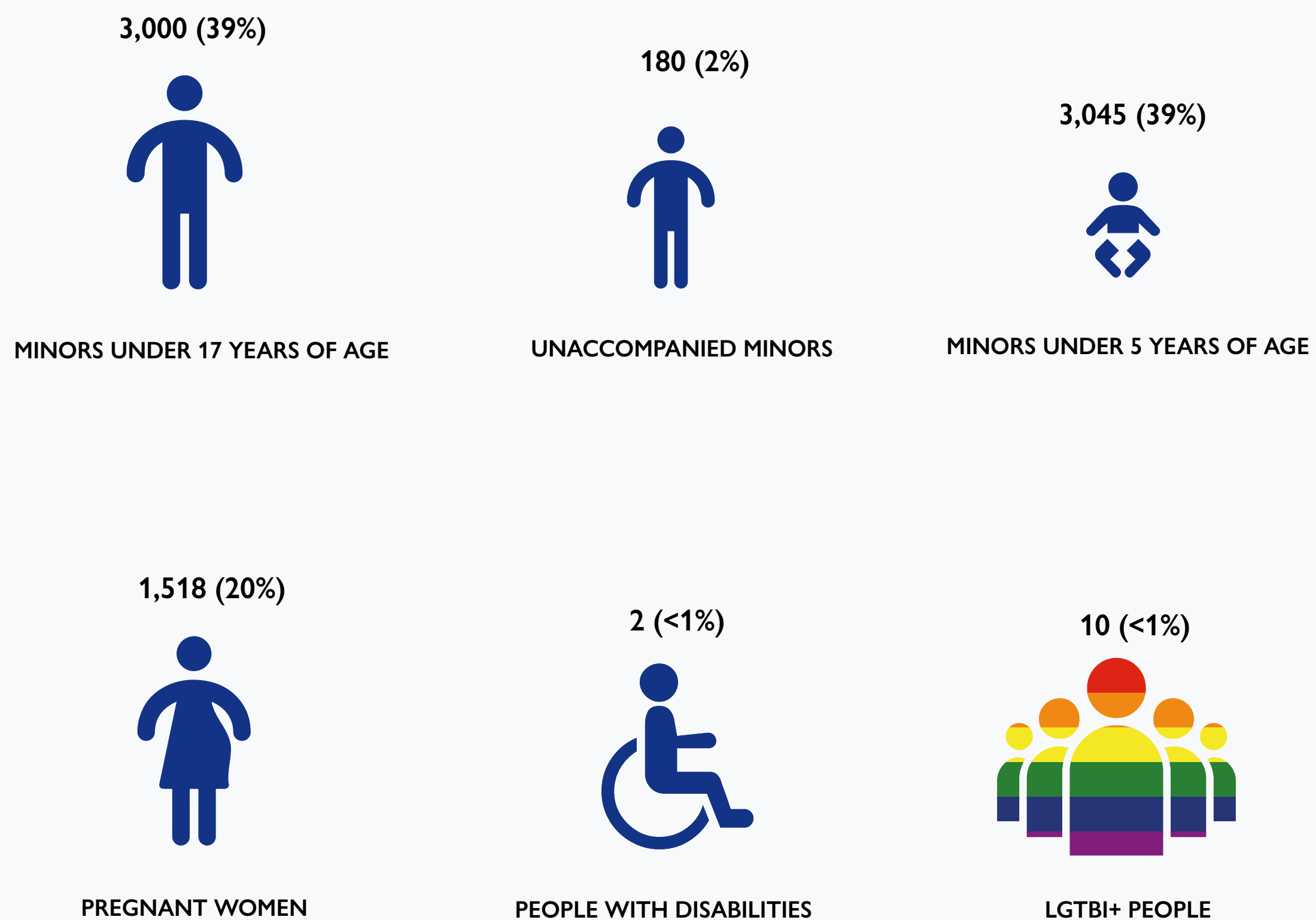
On average, informants have indicated that 70 percent of the migration flow is made up of young men of Honduran nationality. However, the remaining 30 percent of the population is composed of families, children and adolescents, unaccompanied adolescents, pregnant women and, to a lesser extent, LGBTI+ people.

Minors are the most represented category of persons identified as vulnerable, with 3,000 minors between 6 and 17 years of age, 180 unaccompanied minors and 3,045 minors aged 5 and under identified. Minors represent 36 percent of the total migration flow. 1,518 pregnant women, 2 persons with disabilities and 10 LGTBI+ persons were identified.

The flow of people currently entering through Ciudad Hidalgo is mostly made up of family groups of between eight and fifteen people, as well as men traveling alone; groups of young people and adolescents of between two and five people were also identified. In addition, it is recognized that almost half of the migrant family groups are children and adolescents, and there is a significant flow of pregnant women.

Key informants pointed that most of the unaccompanied minors are males between 13 and 17 years of age of Honduran nationality. The main reasons why they leave their place of origin are to flee forced recruitment or because they are seeking to reunite with their parents in the United States.

MIGRANTS IDENTIFIED AS BEING IN VULNERABLE CONDITION, JULY 2021.

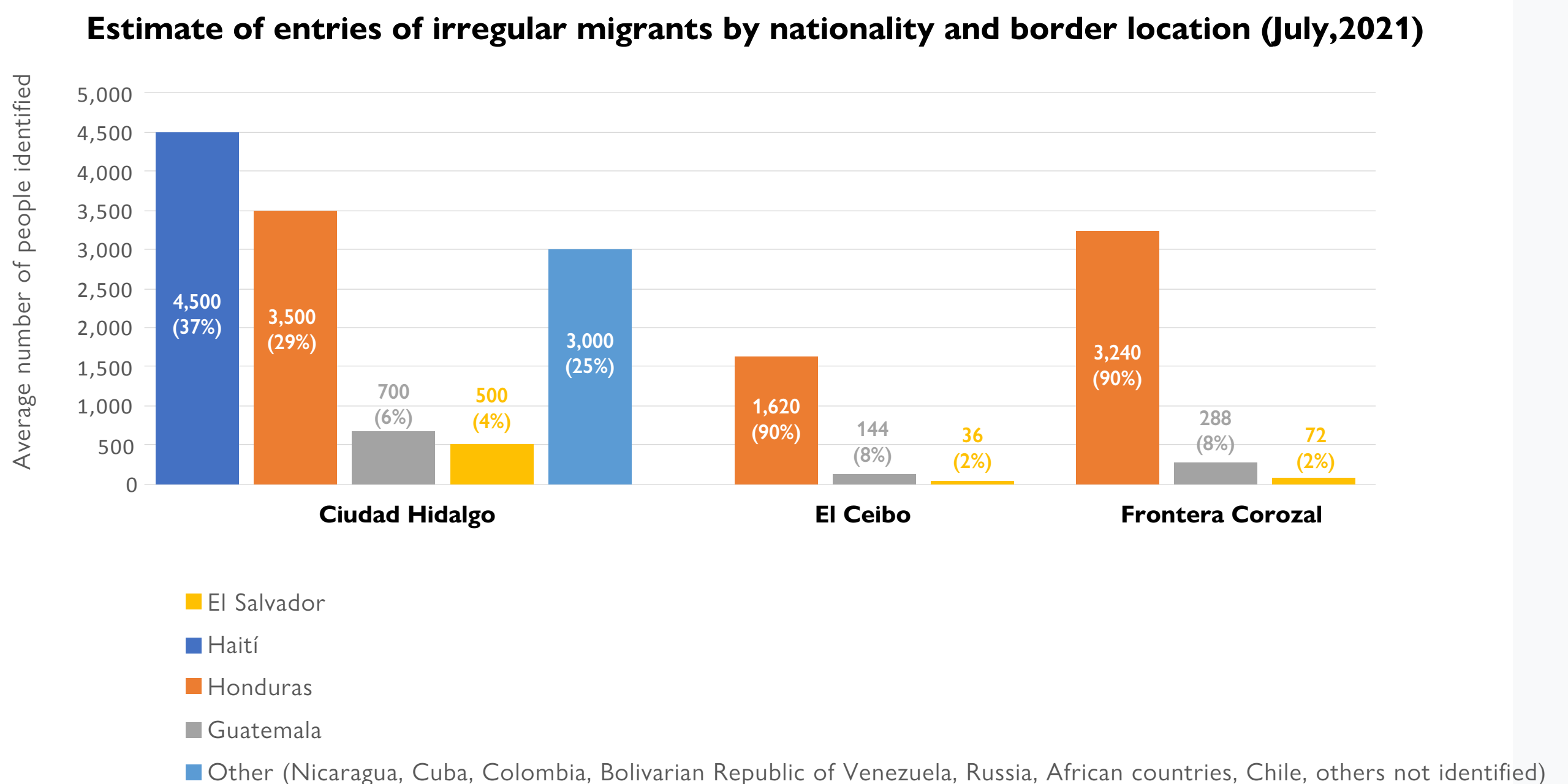


The entry flow was divided among four main nationalities, with a greater flow of people coming from Haiti, Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador, as well as other nationalities identified mostly as Nicaragua, Cuba, Colombia, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and others. Central Americans enter through the three borders and, in the case of Haitians and other nationalities, they enter through Ciudad Hidalgo.

On average, informants have indicated that around 37 percent of the incoming migratory flow is made up of Haitian nationals, and according to the general data by gender, the majority are men.

There was an increase in the entry of Haitian nationals, although Honduran nationals continue to represent a significant number. There was also an increase in the entry of Nicaraguans and Venezuelans in July. The reasons for the migration of these people are the political and economic situations in their countries of origin.

For Central American countries, gang violence and drug trafficking are the main reasons for migration. Likewise, vulnerability conditions affect migrant adolescents, children and women to a greater extent, domestic violence (physical and sexual abuse) was identified as one of the reasons for leaving their country, in addition to poverty and lack of employment. It is noted that Nicaraguans who enter Mexico irregularly are people with active political participation, with profiles such as journalists, activists, political prisoners, or professionals who express their opposition to the Nicaraguan government.



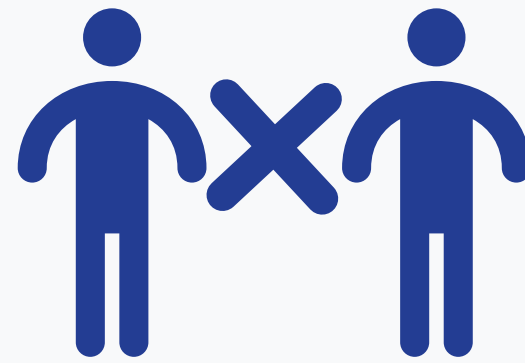


RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE COMMUNITIES OF CIUDAD HIDALGO, PALENQUE AND TENOSIQUE WITH THE MIGRANT POPULATION, JUNE, 2021.

Xenophobia



Rejection



The xenophobic practices of the local community in the city of Palenque towards migrants entering through Frontera Corozal continue to increase, and because of this situation, there is a demand to relocate the migrant's house in this municipality. Key informants have initiated dialogues with government authorities and civil society to find short and long-term solutions together, including awareness-raising activities.



Field work by IOM officers. © IOM 2020



CONCLUSIONS



There was a considerable increase in the entry of Haitian nationals, although irregular entries continue to be identified, mainly from Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Cuba and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.



However, discrepancies were identified between the estimates of the different key informants with respect to the nationality of the migrants, and even when calculating the nationalities per locality there could be differences with the maximum values reported. This could mean that the estimates presented in this report are underestimated.



The current migration flow is made up of a large number of families and almost half of these are made up of children and adolescents. In addition, informants have identified individuals with multiple vulnerabilities, for example, adolescents under 18 years of age who are pregnant. However, there are still limitations for key informants to identify differentiated profiles, so that a quantitative approach is available according to the capacities of each key informant.

The increase of families and individuals at risk of vulnerability in Ciudad Hidalgo implies an operational challenge for the Office of the Attorney General for the Protection of Children, Adolescents and the Family of the DIF-Municipality of Suchiate, an institution that currently serves this population in the locality, and is limited in resources in terms of infrastructure, supplies, personnel and training.

The irregular migration flow in Ciudad Hidalgo is increasing; the transit dynamics that have been organized in the town make it the place that allows them to begin their journey through Mexico. The city is described as a "hot zone", referring to the control that organized crime has over the trafficking of merchandise and migrants; its presence is mainly in the blind passage areas of the river.



Informants have identified constant persecution of migrants by migration authorities, mainly along the El Ceibo-Tenosique and Ciudad Hidalgo-Tapachula routes. However, there is evidence of arbitrary instructions, in which sometimes the practices are permissible and in others they are persecutory.



In view of this, the dynamics for irregular transit (migration business) are modified, sometimes resulting in a transfer in which migrants can do it independently (using tricycle, collective cab or minibus), and at other times the presence of organized crime keeps the transfer network controlled (lodging in their hotels, use of cabs and private vans).

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