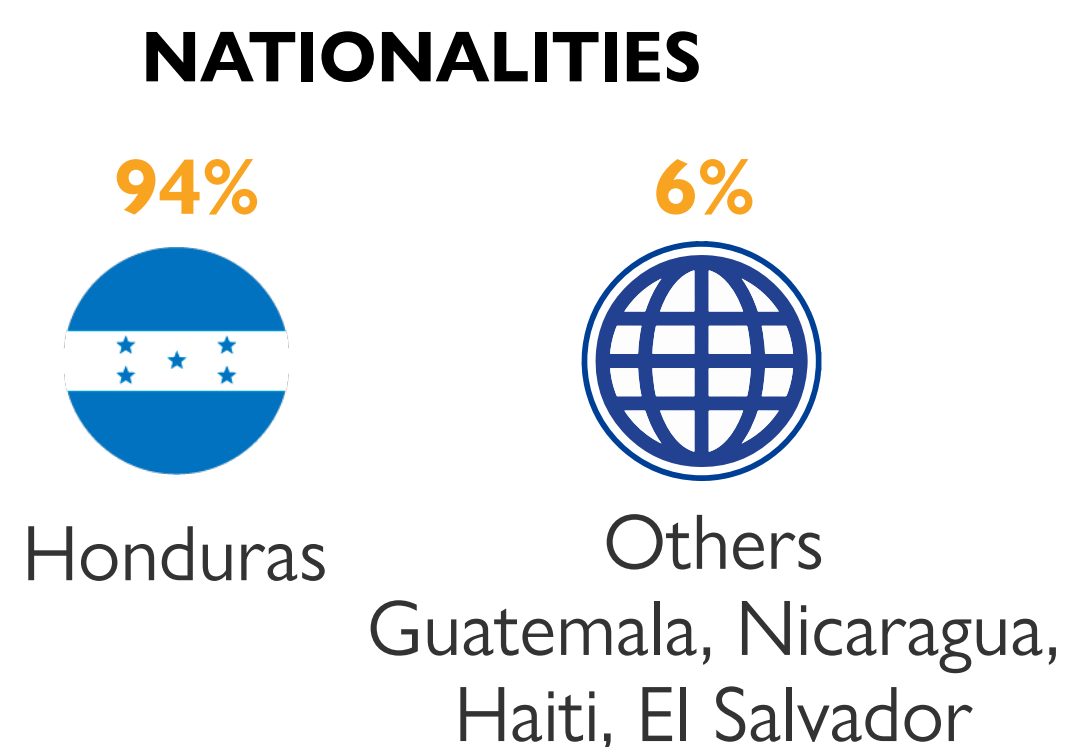
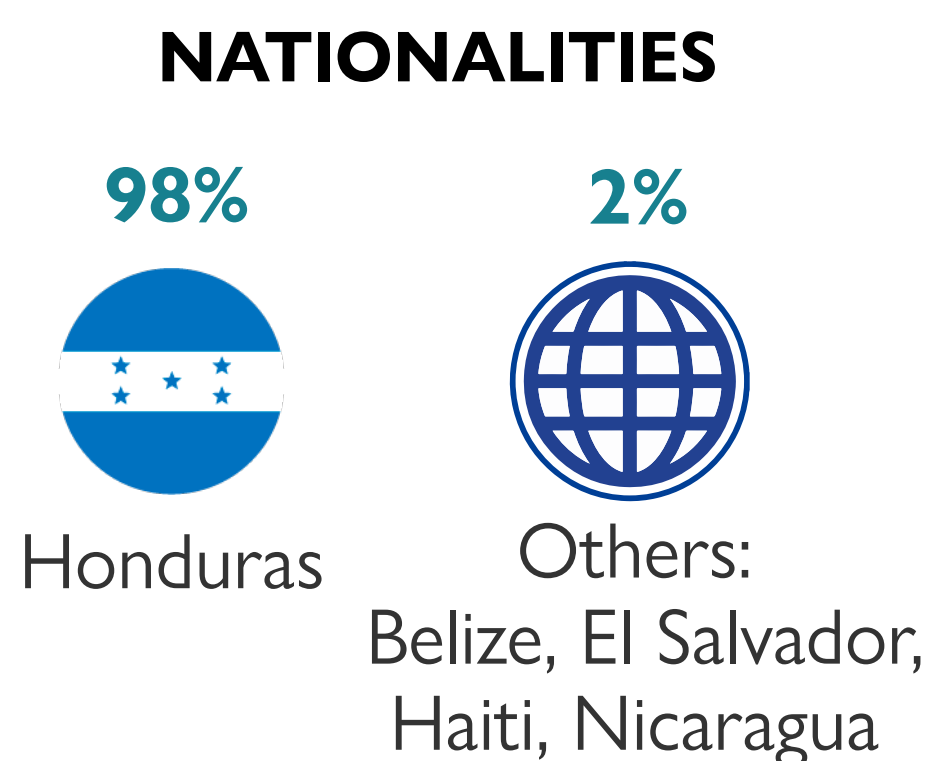
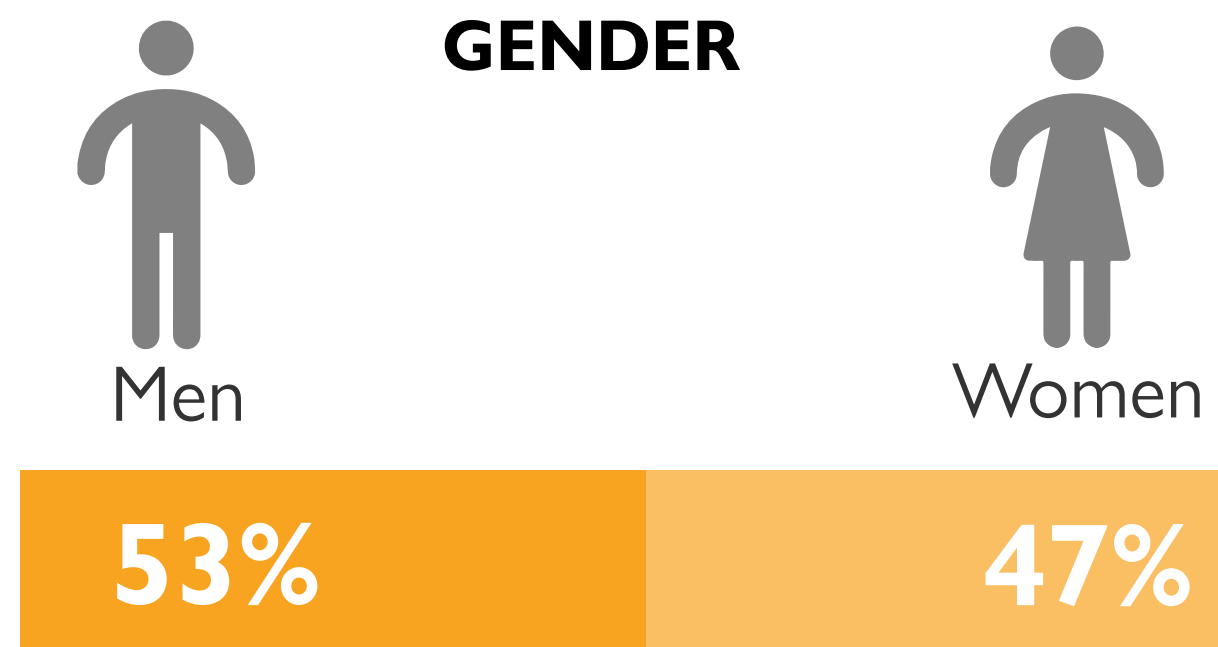
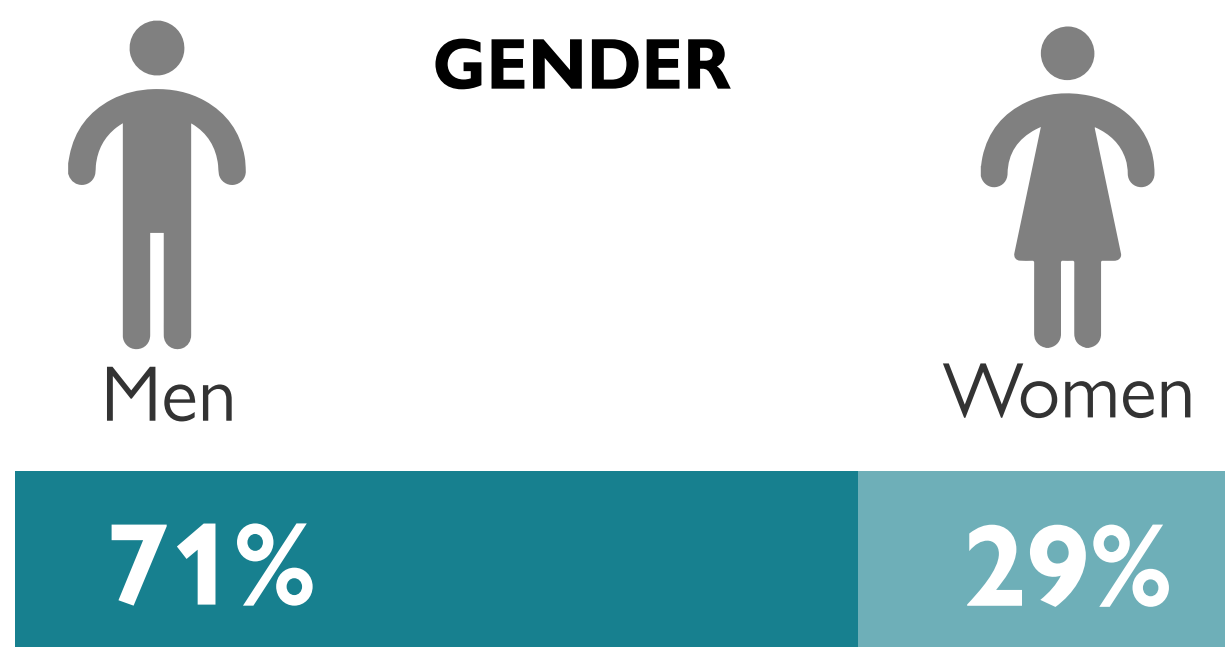
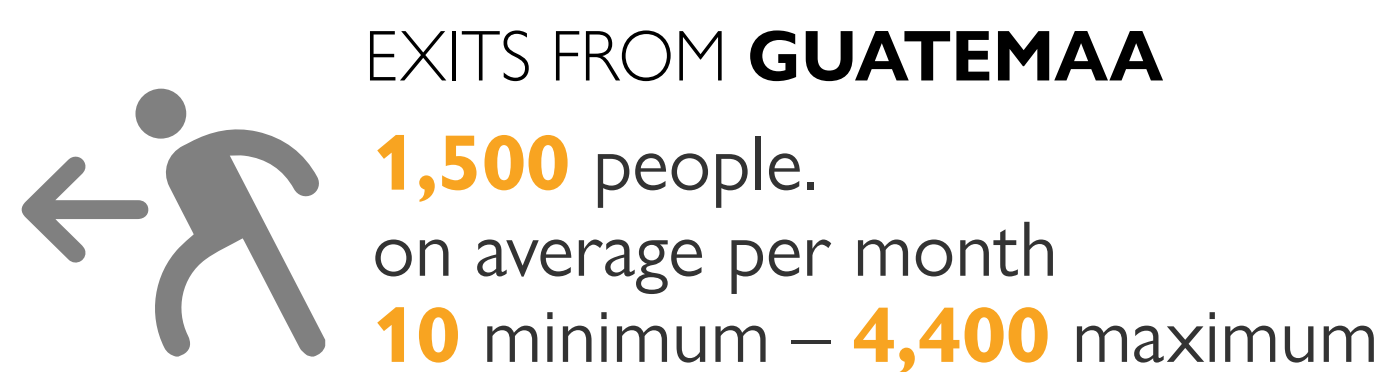
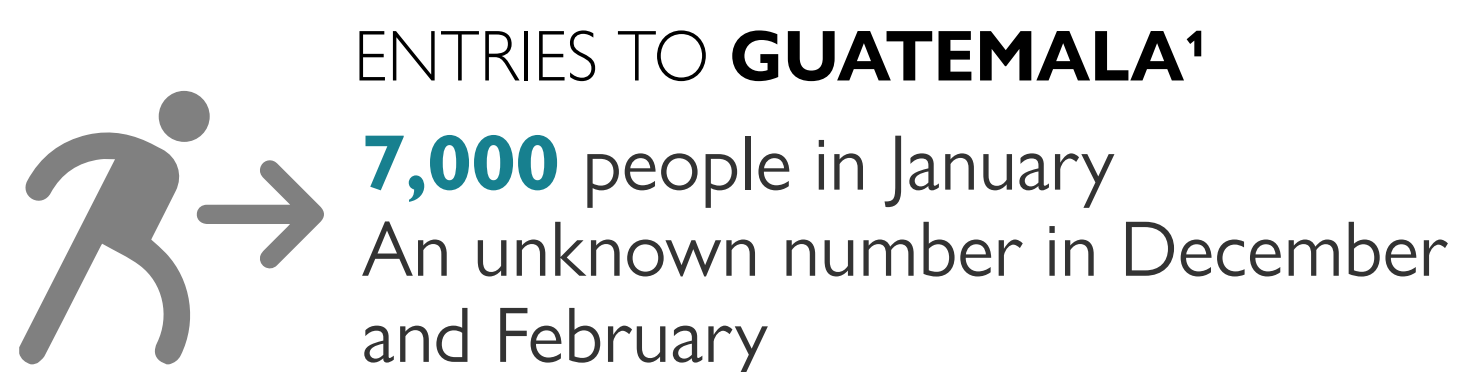


HIGHLIGHTS

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



Groups of between 7 and 4,000 persons were identified in different locations.

¹The data obtained only correspond to the Entre Ríos border in Puerto Barrios, Izabal. No estimates could be obtained for the entry of migrants in other border localities.

Sources: 11 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. Information from the registers of the National Council for Assistance to Migrants of Guatemala (Conamigua), the Health Area Unit of the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare of Guatemala and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) was prioritized, according to the border control points and the information available for each month. The interviews were conducted in March 2021.

In addition, estimates were carried out based on information from the Ministry of Labour and the Committee for Assistance to Migrants, Refugees and Victims of Trafficking.

The data collected only show the perceptions of the interviewed key informants and, in some cases, are the result of the systematic recording of field observations or migration control operations. Therefore, the data are interpreted as general approximations of the situation. The limitations for the study are reduced to the virtualization of the data collection process, since it does not allow for direct, participant observation of the situation in the different border localities, so that the results of the interviews are restricted to particular events and are not necessarily related to the border dynamics as a whole.

LOCATION

GUATEMALA



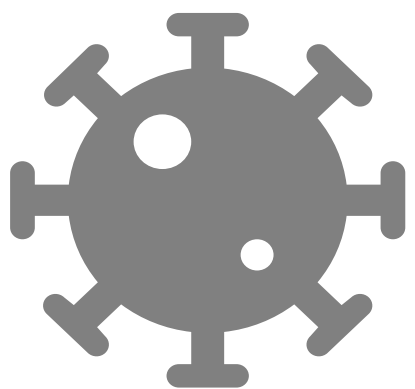
Basemap source: ESRI and UN World Map

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



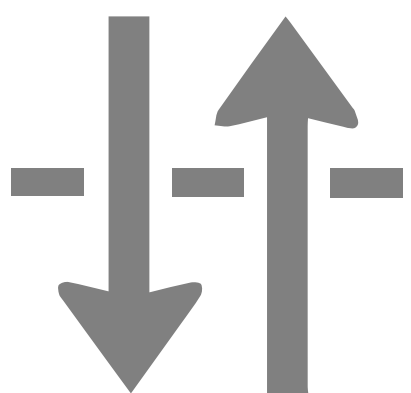
Street sales of face masks. Northern Central American countries Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador) © IOM 2020



During the last few months, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequently, the arrival of Hurricanes Eta and Iota in the region, the economic and labour crisis increased in the Central American countries. The new administration of the United States also had an impact, with the perception of migrant populations of the flexibilization of migration policies. Therefore, it has been observed that the topic of migration has gained greater relevance in the public opinion and in national media.




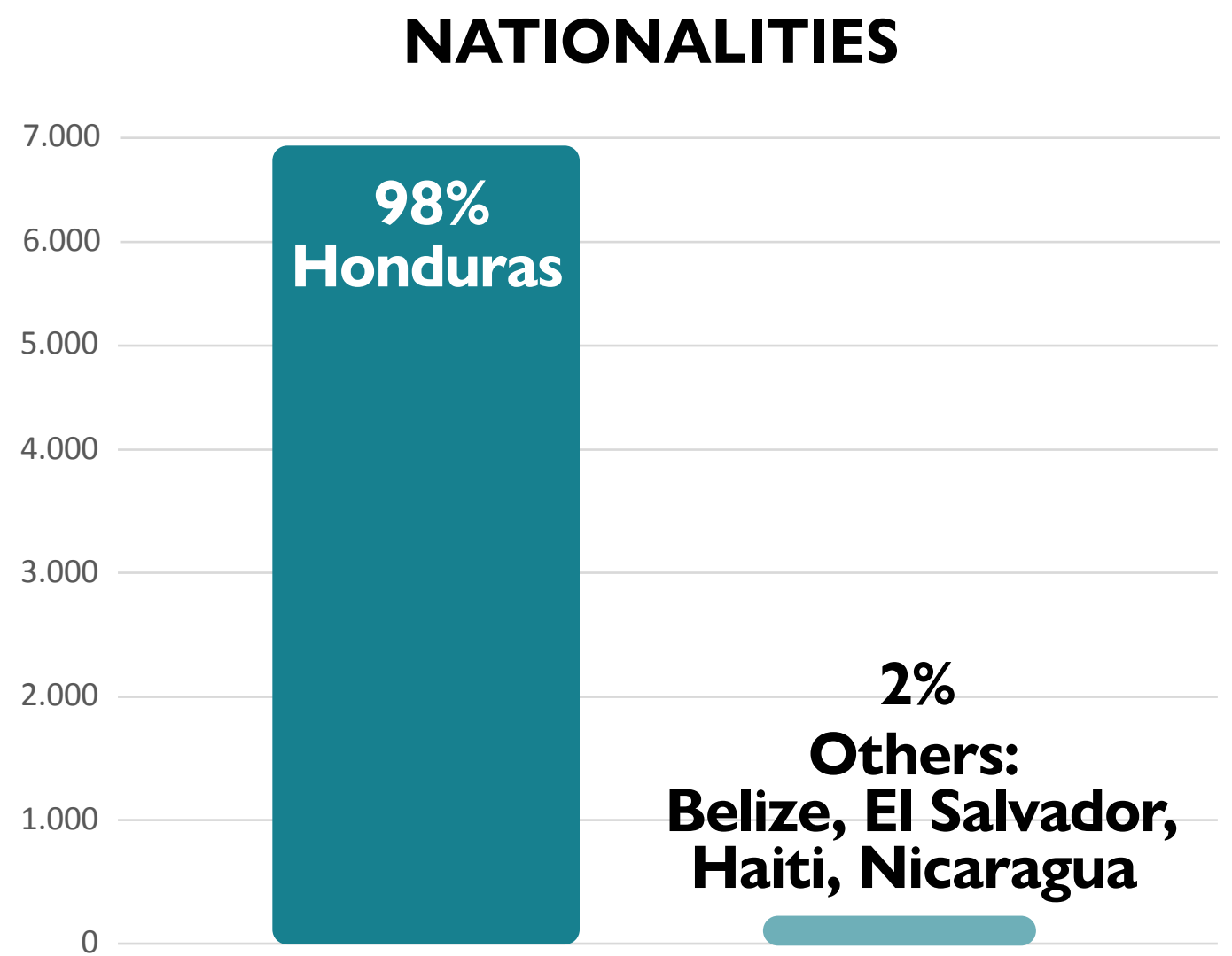
The migration flows that transit through Guatemala are composed of small groups, such as families, or large caravans originating in Honduras. The Government of Guatemala, in response to the migrant caravans, deployed military forces, antiriot police officers and police forces with the aim of stopping these massive migration flows. These control actions were implemented in 7 departments bordering with Honduras and El Salvador. The Government of Mexico took the same stance and secured the border with Guatemala to stop the crossing of irregular migrants and travellers without essential reasons to visit Mexico.



Thus, the dynamic of the mobility of caravans in transit through Guatemala was affected. Migrants enter through the southern border, at El Corinto or El Florido border crossing. As they travel from the Izabal route (southern border) toward El Ceibo border in Peten (northern border), the number of migrants decreases since some of them decide to return to their communities of origin.

INCOMING MIGRATION FLOWS

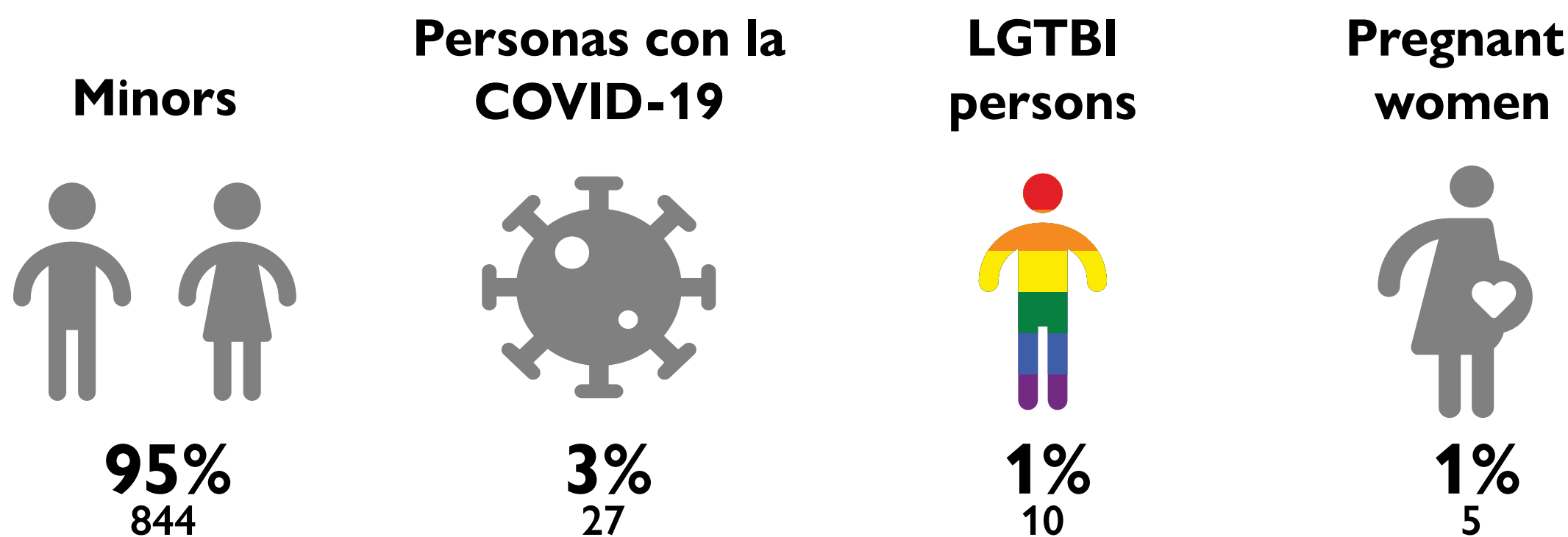
 **7,000 migrants**
Entre Ríos Border
January 2021



With regard to the incoming migration flows, data were only collected at the Puerto Barrios border (in the department of Izabal) on the migration of caravans that occurred during the month of January 2021. The key informants were unable to provide detailed information about the migration flows that had entered the country in December 2020 and February 2021.

In January 2021, a caravan composed of 7,000 persons entered the country, 71% of whom were male. With regard to the identified nationalities, 98% of the migrants were Hondurans. In addition, 150 Belizean nationals were identified, as well as people from Nicaragua, El Salvador and Haiti, but without quantitative estimates. Of the 7,000 migrants, the majority entered through El Florido border crossing (Honduras) and arrived in Vado Hondo, Chiquimula in Guatemala. However, as a result of the actions taken by the Government of Guatemala to stop the migration flows, migrants arrived in Puerto Barrios after having crossed the border at El Corinto (Honduras).

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



Average number of people identified

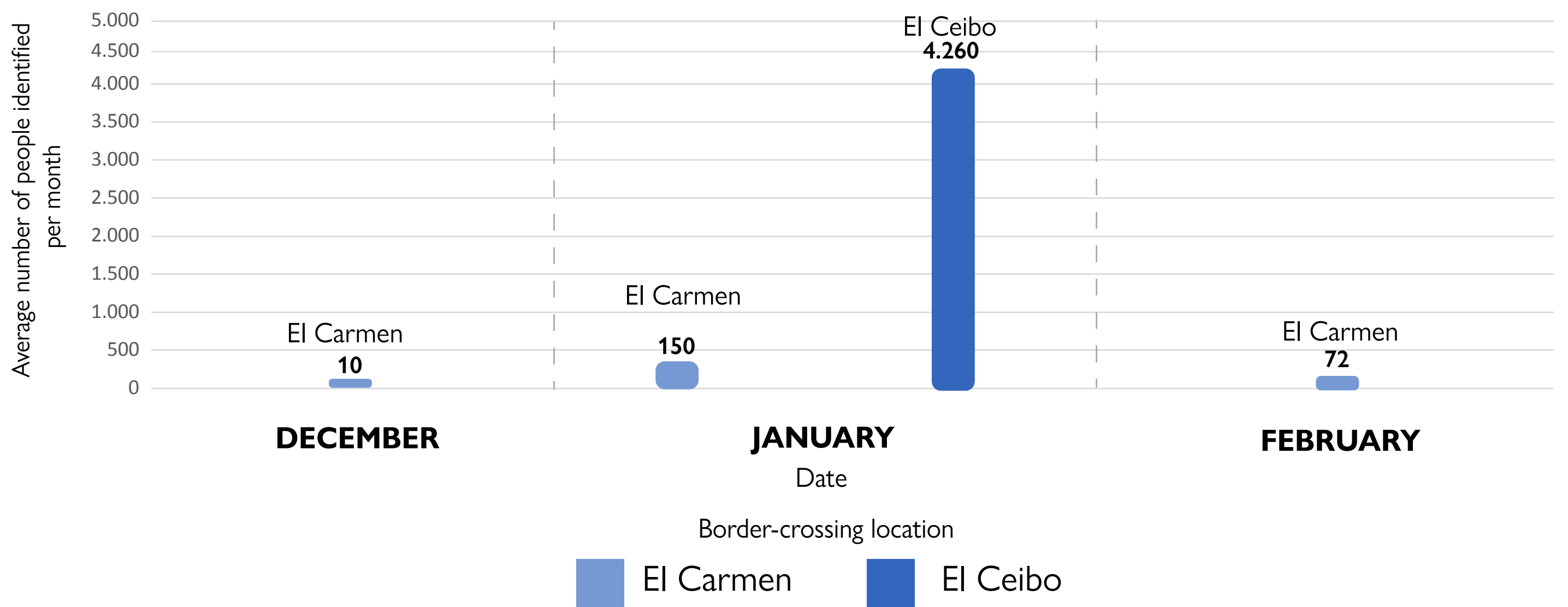
Source: Key informants.

With regard to migrants in vulnerable situations, limitations of the field staff still persist regarding their ability to identify differentiated profiles. Thus, the key informants provided quantitative data according to their capacities.

Minor under 18 years of age account for the largest category of persons identified as migrants in vulnerable situations (844 persons). Thus, this age group represents at least 12% of the migrant population.

OUTGOING MIGRATION FLOWS

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



Source: Interviews with key informants and secondary sources.
No reports were available for December 2020 and February 2021 for El Ceibo border crossing.

The main outgoing flow of migrants during the period in question was identified in El Ceibo border crossing in January, with approximately 4,300 migrants. This group represents the January caravan that entered the country in Puerto Barrios, Izabal. The key informants estimated that 70-150 persons left the country in January and February through El Carmen border crossing. In Puerto Barrios, only 20 migrants were identified who returned to Honduras after having crossed the border.

With regard to the composition of the migration flow by gender, 53% of the persons who left Guatemala were male. Regarding the identified nationalities, 94% of the migrants were Hondurans.

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



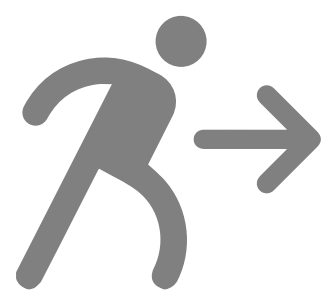
Source: Key informants.

Regarding migrants in vulnerable situations, limitations of the field staff still persist regarding their ability to identify differentiated profiles. Thus, the key informants provided quantitative data according to their capacities.

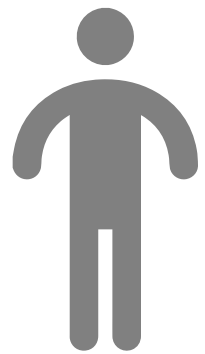
Minors under 18 years of age account for the largest category of persons identified as migrants in vulnerable situations (450 persons). Thus, this age group represents at least 10% of the migrant population.

MIGRANT POPULATIONS STRANDED ALONG THE BORDERS

NATIONALITIES



4,000 migrants
El Ceibo Border
January 2021



Men

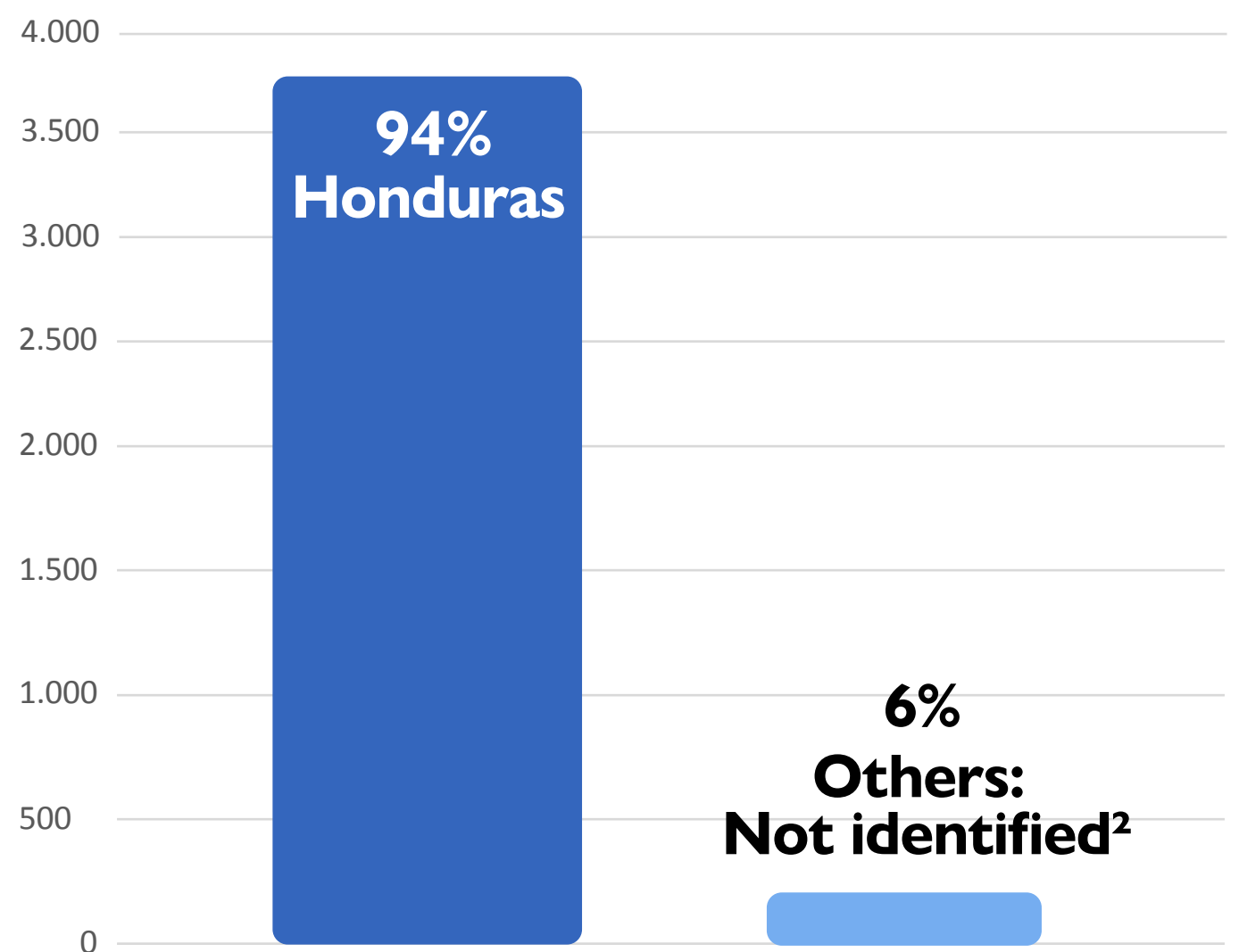
53%

GENDER



Women

47%



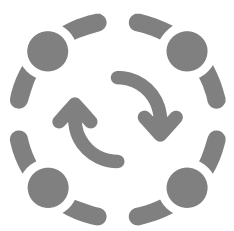
The key informants estimated that of the 7,000 persons who entered the country in January, approximately 4,400 were able to reach El Ceibo border crossing.



4,000 were stranded until they could cross the border. The sociodemographic characteristics of these persons correspond to those of the migrants who left the country through El Ceibo border crossing, since they are the same people.



In addition, the key informants mentioned that approximately 40 migrants were stranded at El Carmen border crossing in January and February, and between 5 and 30 were stranded in Puerto Barrios.



Furthermore, the key informants stated that despite some incidents, the relations between the stranded populations and the communities were good or neutral.

LODGING CONDITIONS

Without lodging



99%

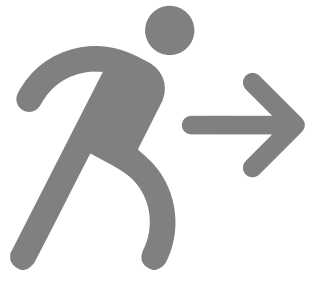
Shelters for migrants



1%

² Refers to persons with nationalities from African countries that could not be identified by the key informants.

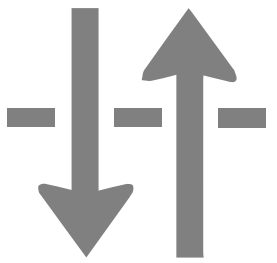
CONCLUSIONS



The migration flows entering Guatemala are composed of members of the January caravan that entered the country through the Entre Ríos border, coming from Honduras.



The main outgoing flow during the period in question concentrated at El Ceibo border crossing, due to the January caravan. Furthermore, persons exiting through El Carmen border crossing were reported as well.



Limited data were obtained on the incoming and outgoing migration flows other than the January caravan that originated in Honduras.



The key informants mentioned that some incidents occurred in Vado Hondo, particularly the use of teargas bombs by the authorities to stop the migrant caravan.



The majority of the migrants who crossed the southern border as part of the January caravan continued their journey travelled to El Ceibo. They were stranded until they were able to cross the border. The vast majority of them successfully crossed the border, according to the key informants.



Limitations of the key informants are highlighted in regard to their capacity to identify profiles of migrants in vulnerable situations, except for minors under 18 years of age.



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

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