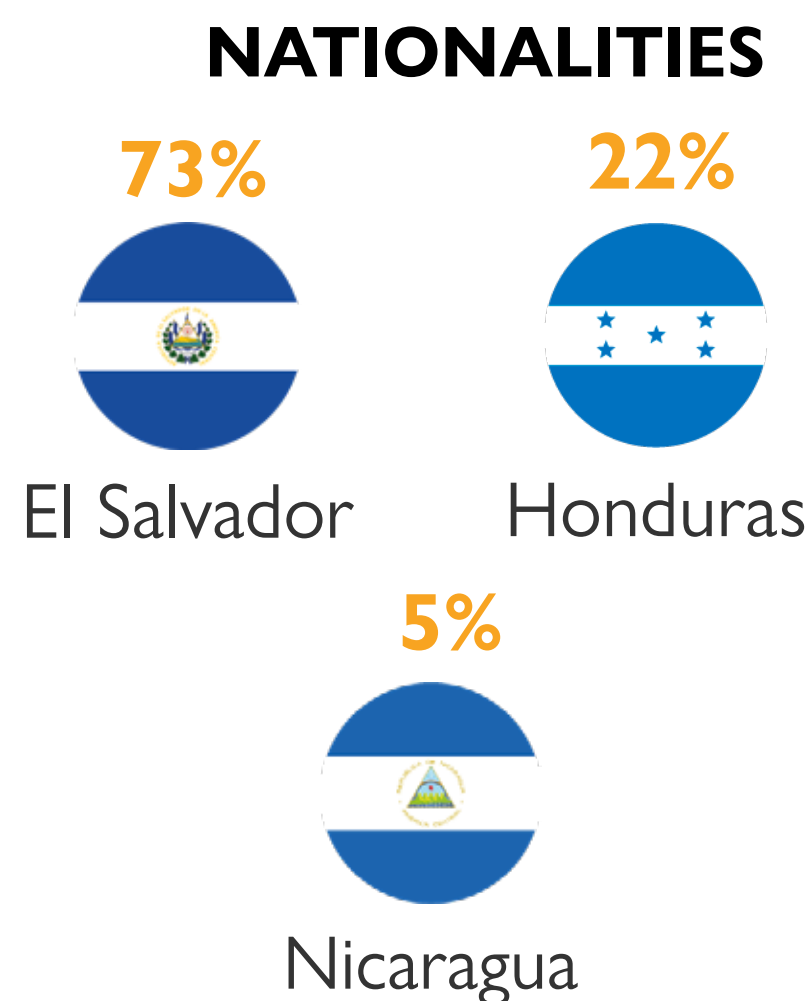
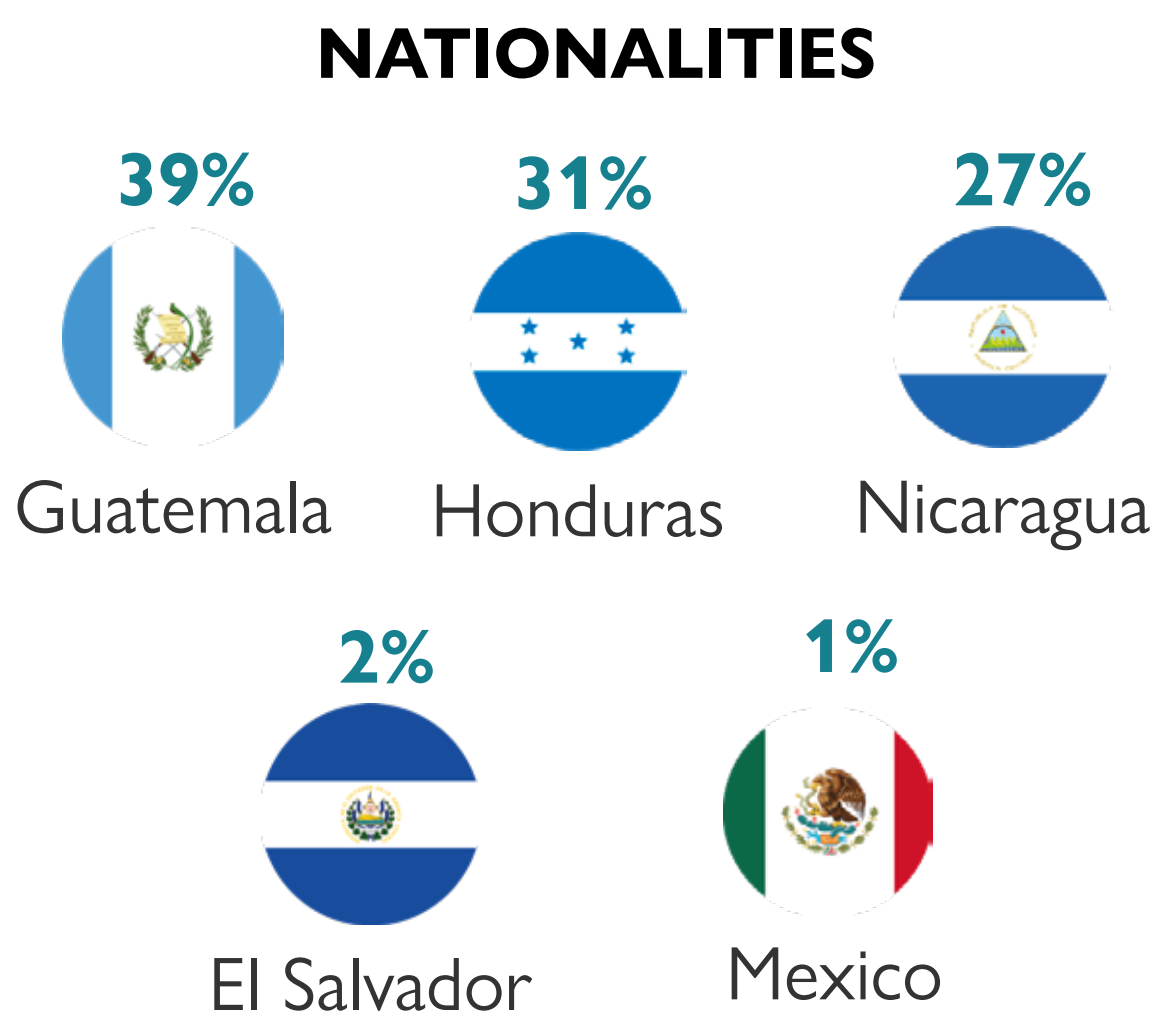
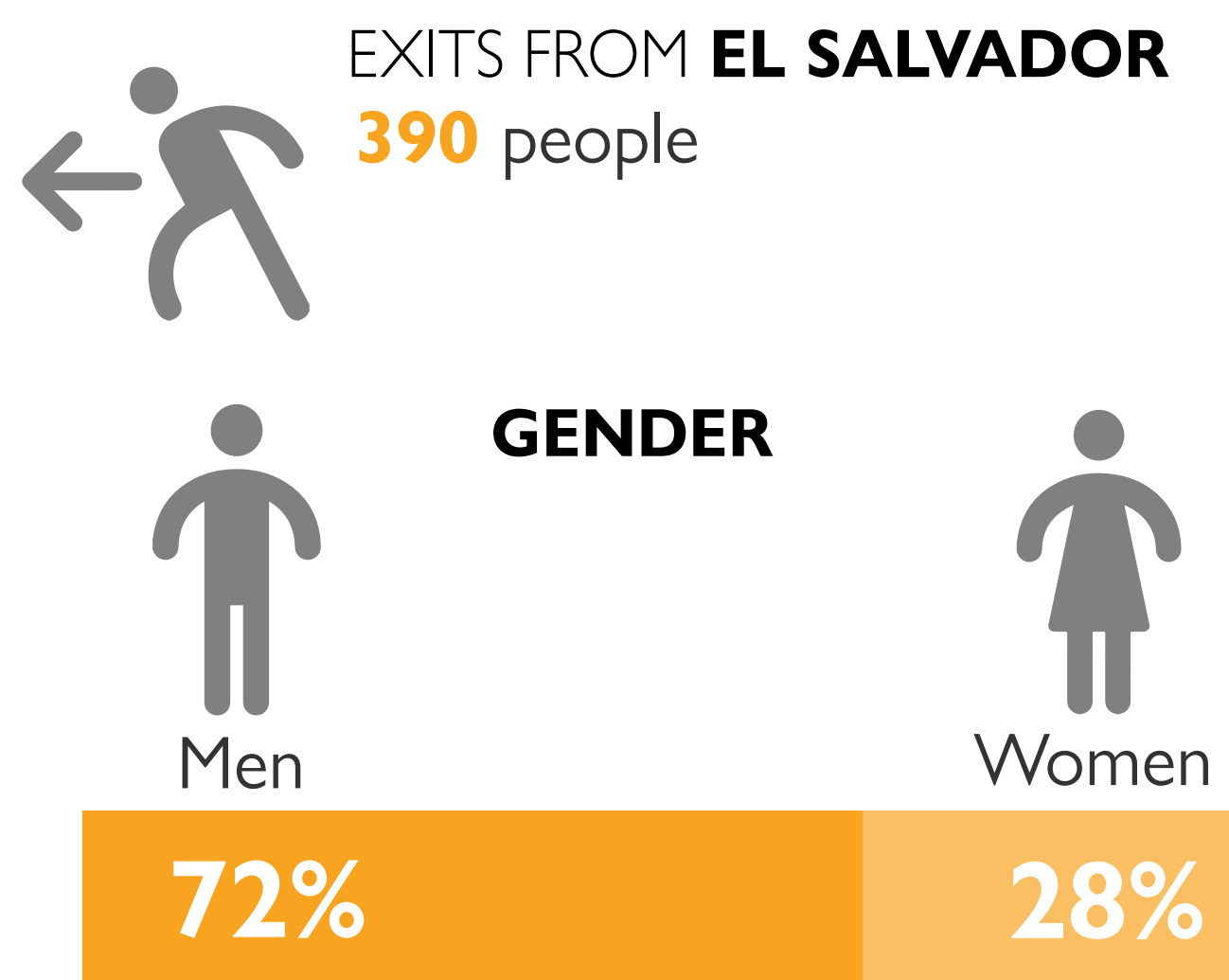
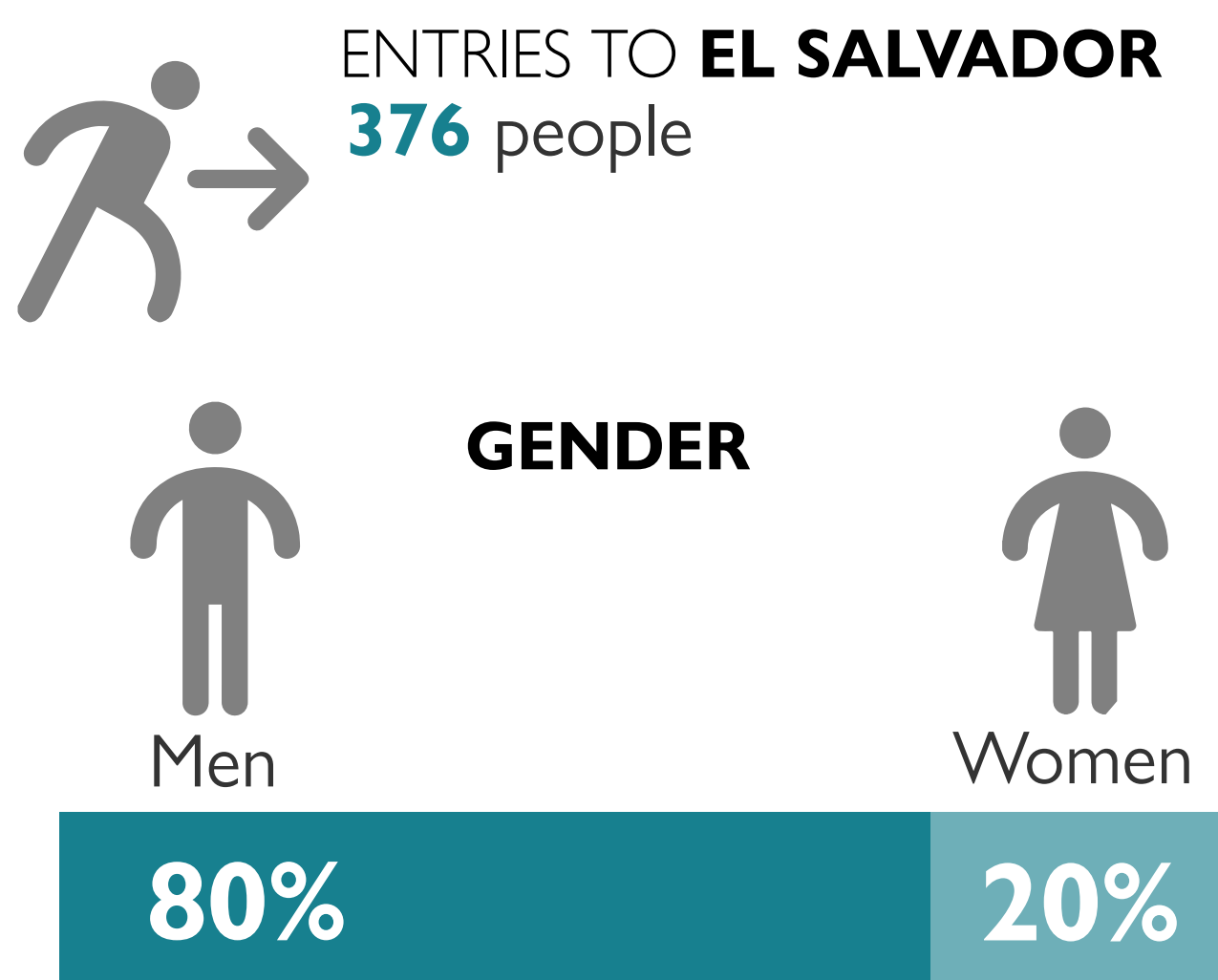


## HIGHLIGHTS

### 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 identified stranded people in San Cristóbal and El Amatillo.

## Sources: 19 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 General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners (DGME), the National Civil Police (PNC), the International Health Office (OSI), and the Protection Board of the National Council for Children and Adolescents (CONNA) was used. These interviews were conducted in June 2021.

The data collected are either the result of systematic records of field observations or migration control actions or reflect the perception of the interviewed key informants. In both cases, the estimates could be biased due to the difficulty to estimate irregular migration flows that have not been recorded by the relevant authorities. In addition, significant discrepancies exist between the estimates of the population flows provided by the different key informants, both in quantitative and qualitative terms, and the available information does not enable judging the quality of the information provided. Therefore, the results from this report are general approximations of the situation.

## LOCATION

### EI SALVADOR



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.





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



In El Salvador, the sanitary provisions for the entry of persons into the national territory are maintained. According to the official web page of the General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners (DGME), to enter El Salvador, persons must consider the following aspects:

- Individuals who have not been vaccinated against COVID-19 must submit a negative COVID-19 viral test result (PCR, NAAT or LAMP) issued a maximum of 72 hours prior to entry.
- Individuals who have been vaccinated against COVID-19 must submit the original vaccination record certifying compliance with the complete doses of the vaccine. Individuals who have only received one of the two doses must submit a negative COVID-19 viral test result issued a maximum of 72 hours prior to arrival or entry<sup>1</sup>.



In addition, in the context of the situation at the borders, a space for migrant children has been created at the Las Chinamas border, aimed at strengthening national institutions for the care and protection of returned migrant children and adolescents<sup>2</sup>.



With the "Camino Protegido" program of Plan Internacional and Fundación Educo El Salvador, 200 hygiene, biosecurity, food, and menstrual hygiene kits were delivered to the Center for Comprehensive Attention to Migrants<sup>3</sup>.



Lastly, an activity to give identity documents to foreigners has begun with the main purpose of optimizing the migration control of Central American workers who transit the border areas for seasonal economic activities, and border security, in compliance with the Special Law on Migration and Foreigners. Specifically, these documents will facilitate the entry, stay, and exit of persons in a fast, regular, and safe manner<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners El Salvador. 2021. Available at: : <https://www.facebook.com/MigracionSV/photos/a.154411168077683/1781848032000647/>

<sup>2</sup>Unicef. UNICEF supports the creation of a friendly space for migrant children at the Las Chinamas border. 2021. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/elsalvador/historias/unicef-apoya-creaci%C3%B3n-de-espacio-amigable-para-ninez-migrante>

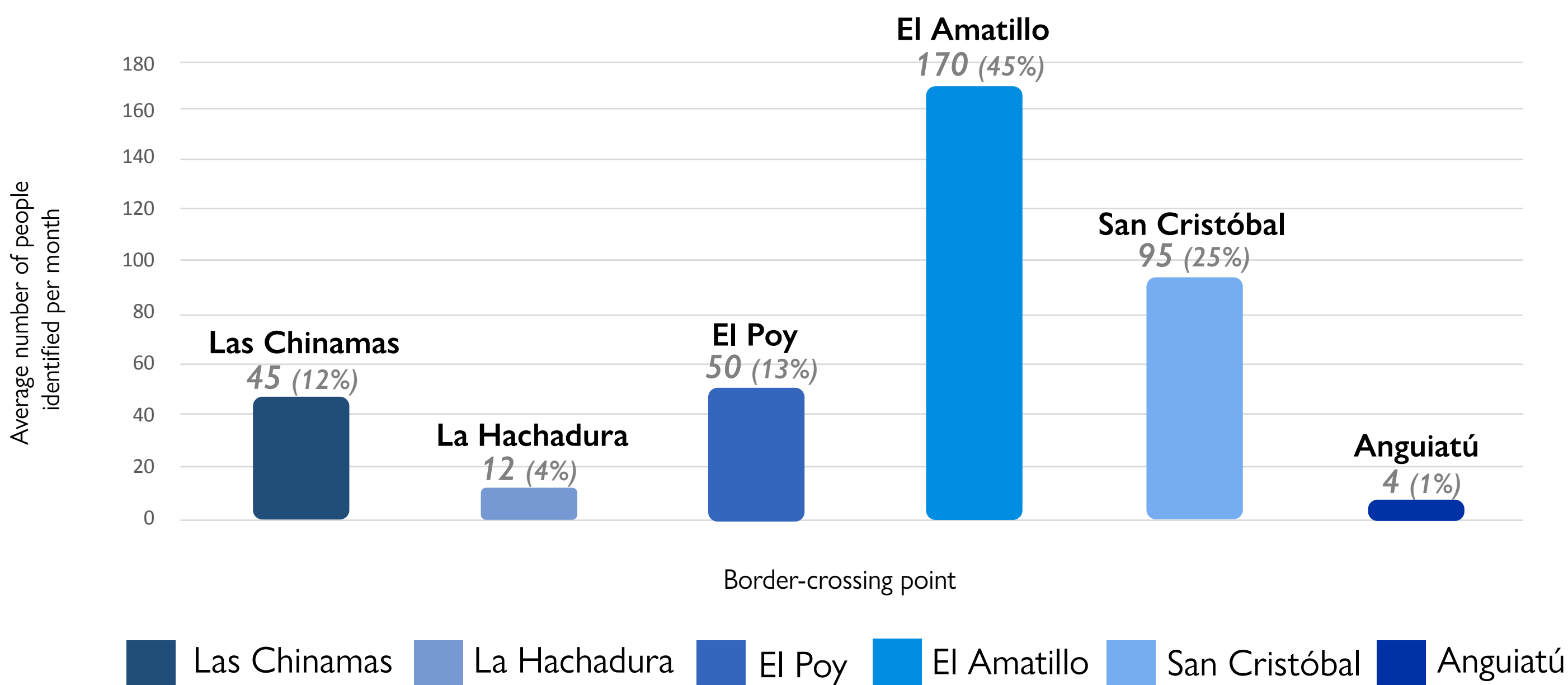
<sup>3</sup>El Salvador. Plan Internacional El Salvador. 2021. Available at: [https://twitter.com/Plan\\_ElSalvador/status/1395124344435757060](https://twitter.com/Plan_ElSalvador/status/1395124344435757060)

<sup>4</sup>General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners El Salvador. 2021. Available at: <https://www.facebook.com/MigracionSV/videos/326763892142644>



# INCOMING MIGRATION FLOWS

## Monthly approximation of persons entering irregularly per border crossing location (May 2021)



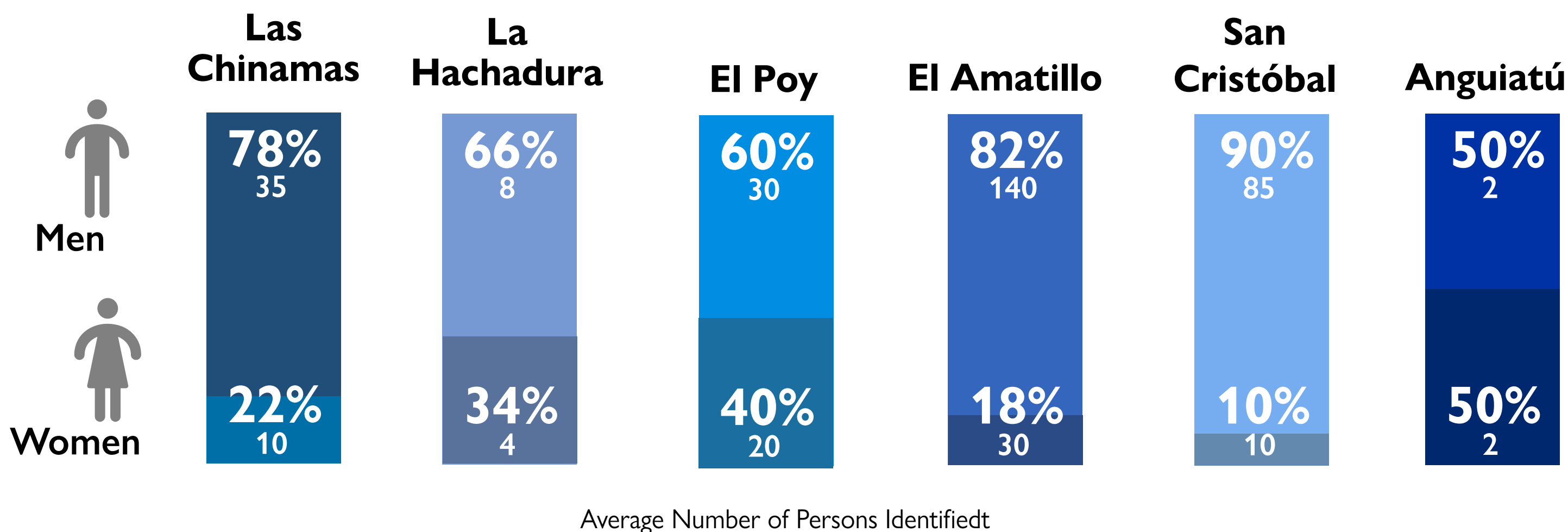
Source: Key informants.

Regarding the incoming migration flow, data provided by key informants showed that in May, El Amatillo was the main border entry point, with 170 entries. In San Cristóbal, 95 people entered, and in Las Chinamas and El Poy, around 50 people, respectively. At the other two border crossing points, the entries did not exceed 15 people.

Eighty percent of the people who entered were men. In relation to people in vulnerable conditions, there are still limitations for field personnel to identify differentiated profiles, so that a quantitative approach is available according to the capacities of each key informant.

However, specific cases of people suspected of having SARS-CoV-2 were identified and referred to the International Health Office. In addition, minors are the most represented category of persons identified under vulnerable condition, with 9 people. Therefore, minors represent at least 2 percent of the migration flow.

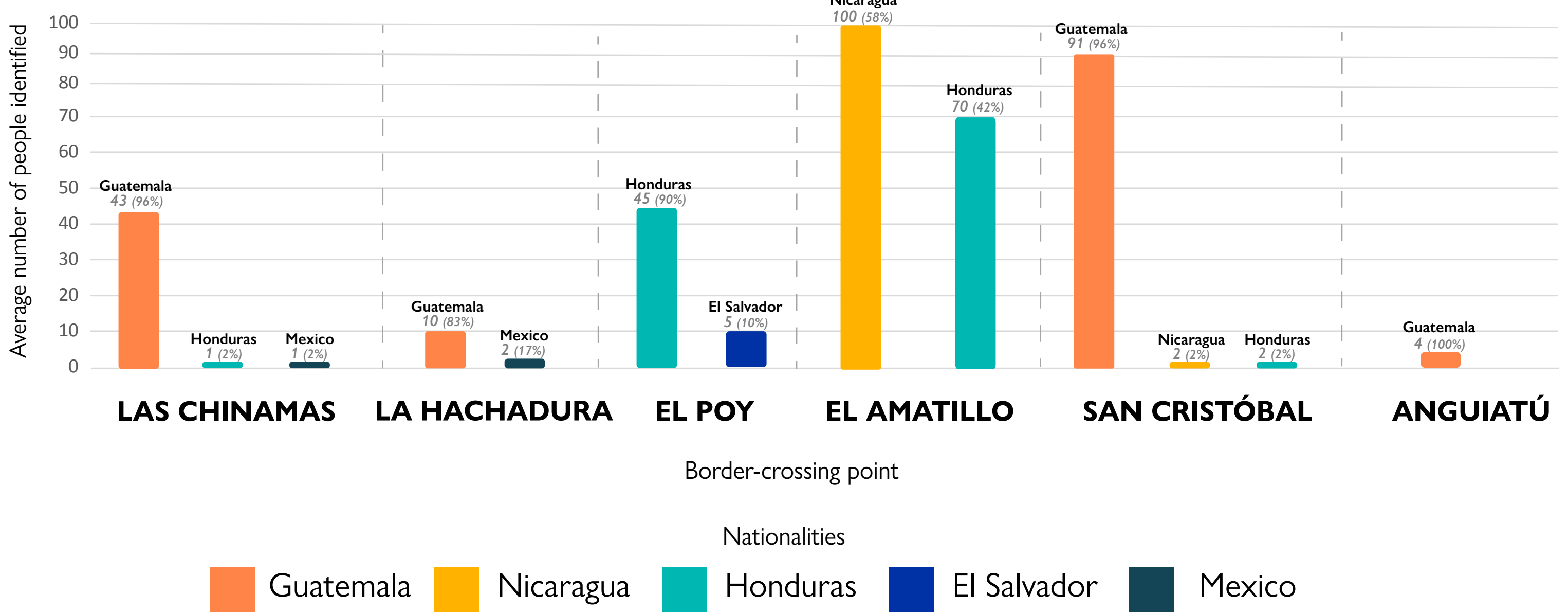
## Monthly approximation of persons entering irregularly, by Gender and Border Crossing (May 2021)



Source: Key informants.

# INCOMING MIGRATION FLOWS

## Monthly approximation of persons leaving irregularly by Nationality and Border Crossing (May 2021)



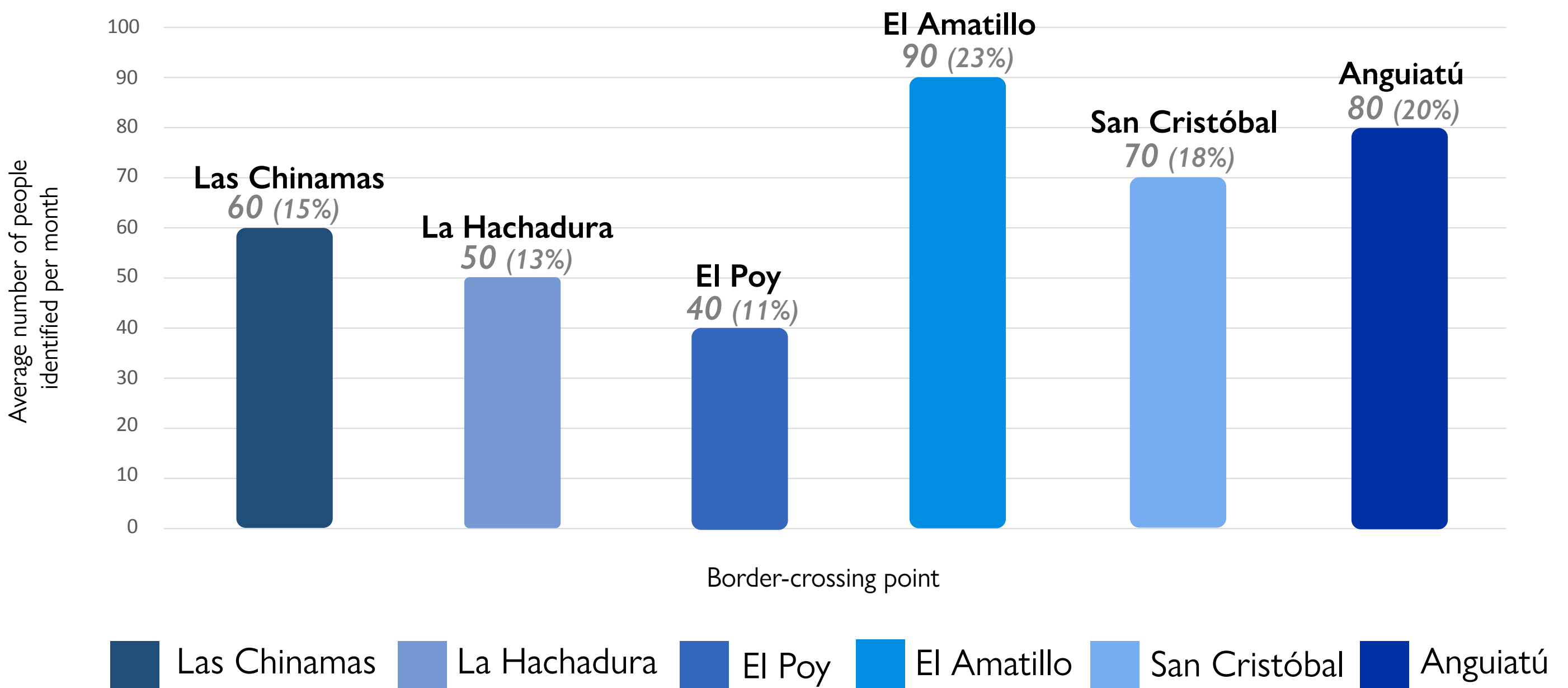
Source: Key informants.

The incoming flow was divided among five nationalities, with the greatest flow of people coming from Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Honduras and, to a lesser extent, from El Salvador and Mexico. Guatemalans mainly enter through Las Chinamas and San Cristóbal, and to a lesser extent, through Anguiatú and La Hachadura. Nicaraguans use El Amatillo border crossing point and, to a lesser extent, San Cristóbal. Most Hondurans enter through El Amatillo border crossing point, even if El Poy border crossing point is also used.

The reasons for migration include family reunification within El Salvador and the need for health care in the country's hospital network, as well as the improvement of their economic conditions, and labor migration for agricultural work.

# OUTGOING MIGRATION FLOWS

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



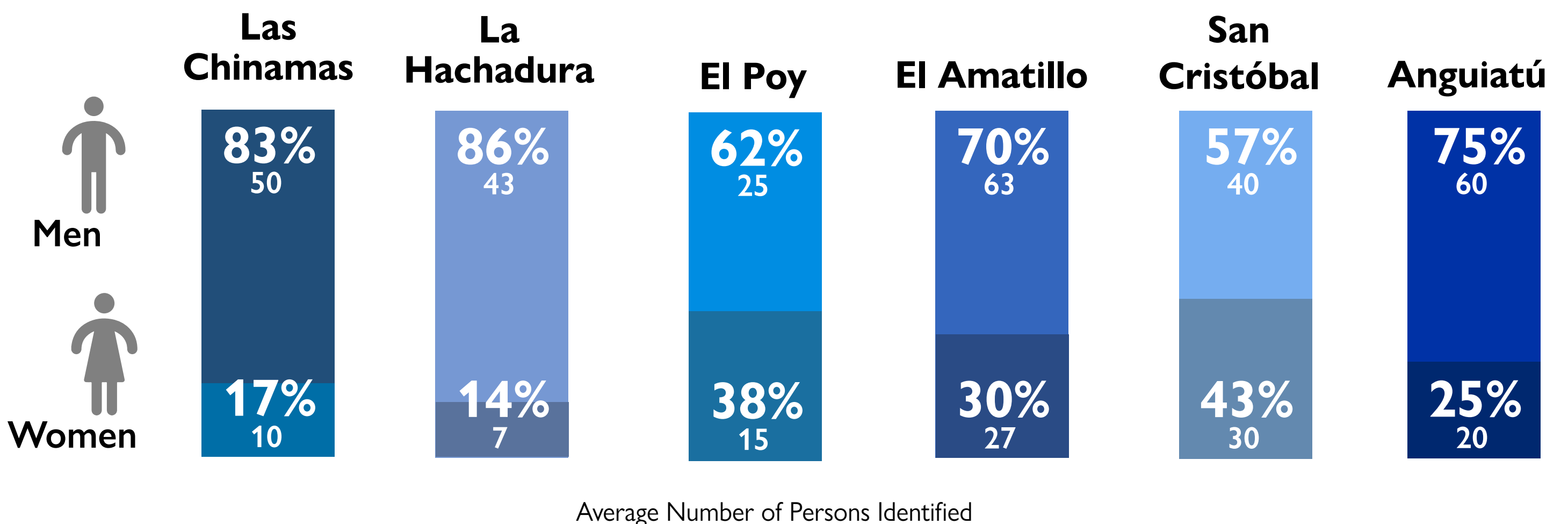
Source: Key informants and Secondary Sources Consulted.

Data provided by key informants at the different border points show a flow of 90 people in El Amatillo and 80 people in Anguiatú and flows of between 70 and 50 people in San Cristóbal, Las Chinamas and La Hachadura. In the case of El Poy, flows of less than 50 people were identified.

Regarding the composition of the migration flow by gender, 72 percent of the people leaving El Salvador are men. However, this proportion reaches 83 percent in Las Chinamas. Likewise, key informants identified that migrants travel mostly (more than 70 percent) in groups of two to seven people.

In relation to people in vulnerable conditions, there are still limitations for field staff to identify differentiated profiles, so that a quantitative approach is available according to the capacities of each key informant. Minors are the most represented category of people identified as vulnerable, with 12 people. Therefore, minors represent at least 3 percent of the migration flow. In addition, cases of LGBTI+ persons leaving through border points were identified.

Monthly approximation of persons leaving irregularly, by Gender and Border Crossing (May 2021)



Source: Key informants.

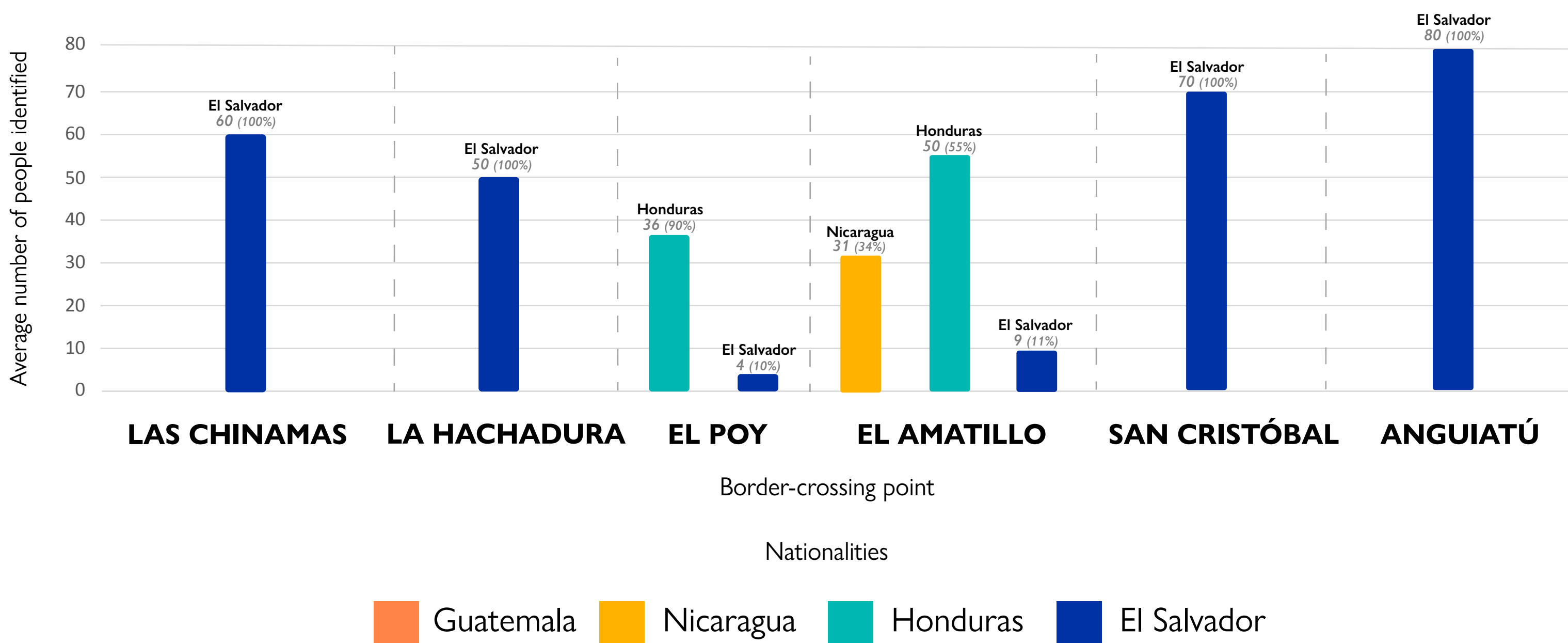


# OUTGOING MIGRATION FLOWS



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

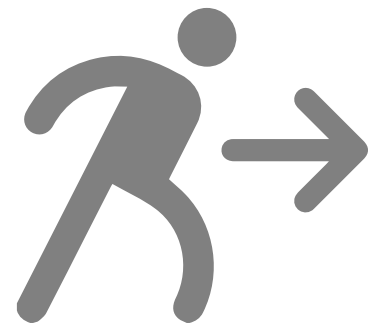
## Monthly approximation of persons leaving irregularly, by Gender and Border Crossing (May 2021)



Source: Key informants and Secondary Sources Consulted.

Three nationalities stand out in the outgoing flow, with a greater flow of people from El Salvador leaving through all border points. Nicaraguans leave only through El Amatillo and Hondurans use El Amatillo and El Poy border points to leave.

# STRANDED POPULATION



**5 stranded migrants**  
May 2021

## NATIONALITIES

40%



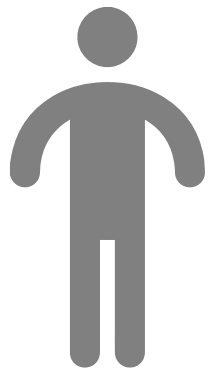
Bolivarian  
Republic of  
Venezuela

60%



Nicaragua

## GENDER



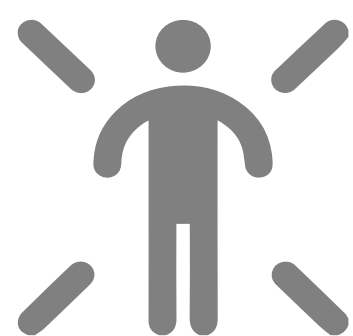
Men



Women

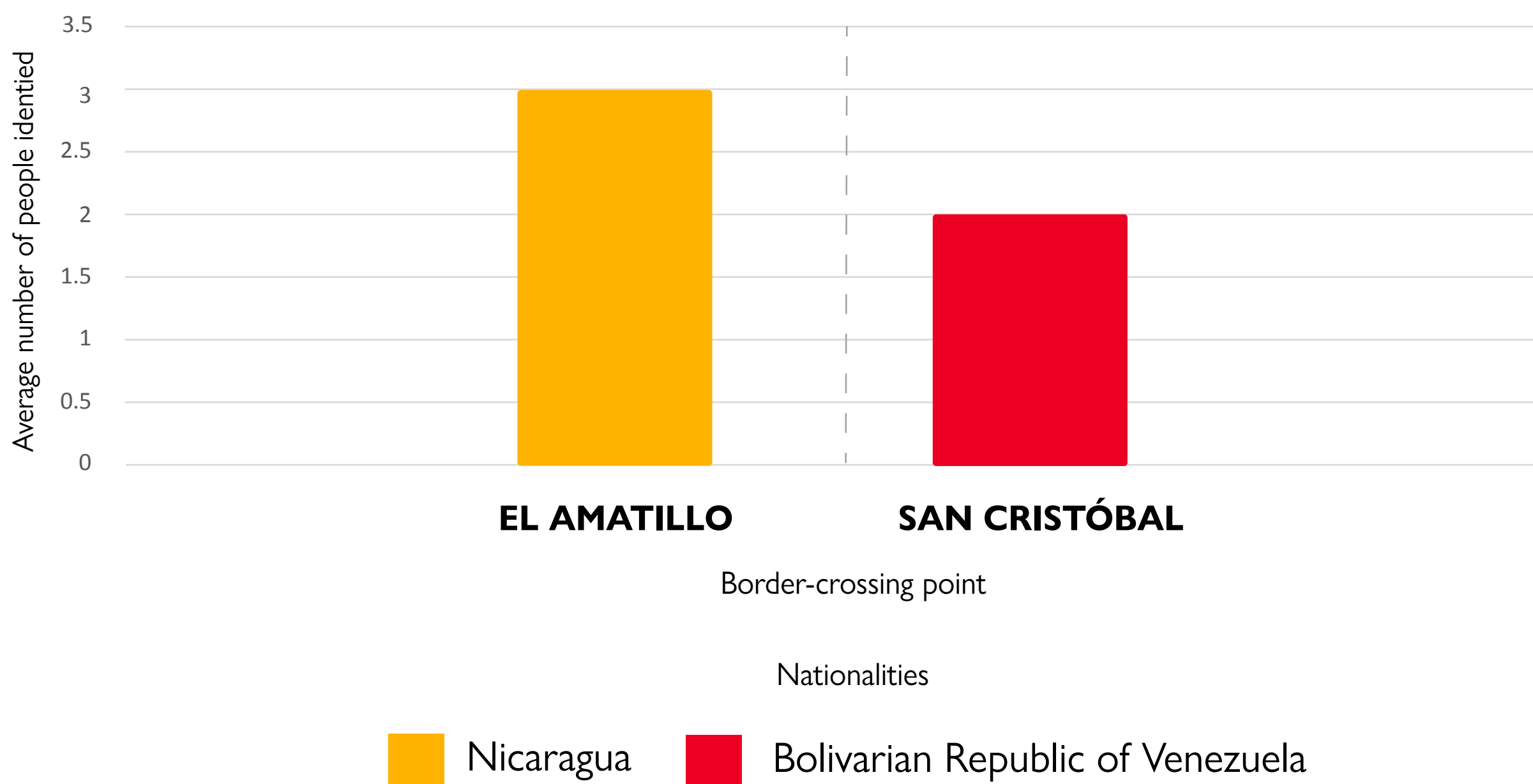
100%

0%



Five stranded persons were identified, all of whom were men. Forty percent were identified in San Cristobal and were of Venezuelan nationality, while 60 percent were identified in El Amatillo and were of Nicaraguan nationality. All individuals resided in hotels in the area, where there have been no incidents with the host community, nor with local authorities. Key informants did not identify persons in vulnerable conditions among the population stranded in San Cristóbal and El Amatillo.

## Monthly approximation of migrants stranded in irregular conditions by nationality and by border location (May 2021)



Source: Key informants.



## CONCLUSIONS



The border points of El Amatillo and San Cristóbal were the main entry points in May, with 170 and 95 persons, respectively. At the four other border crossing points, incoming flows of less than 50 persons were identified. The individuals were nationals of Honduras, Guatemala, and Nicaragua.



Two major outgoing flows were identified, one in El Amatillo, with 90 people leaving, and another in Anguiatú with 80 people. In addition, outgoing flows of less than 70 people per month were observed at each of the other border crossing points.



In relation to people in vulnerable conditions, there are still limitations for field staff to identify differentiated profiles, so that a quantitative approach is available according to the capacities of each key informant.



The requirement to have a negative PCR-RT test and the high cost of such a test increased, according to key informants, irregular migration.



There are discrepancies between estimates from different key informants regarding the nationality of migrants, which could mean that the estimates presented in this report are underestimates.



Five migrants were identified as stranded in San Cristóbal and El Amatillo; however, according to key informants, they do not present any condition of vulnerability.



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

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