

## 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.



#### NATIONALITIES



#### NATIONALITIES



Source: Key informants.

### STRANDED POPULATION



Key informants did not identify stranded populations in the border localities.

## Sources: 14 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. Estimates were compiled from the Conamigua Delegation, the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office, the Committee for the Support of Migrants, Refugees and Victims of Trafficking, the Health Area Directorate of Izabal and La Libertad, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Municipalities of Petén, Tecún Umán and Izabal, and the Ministry of Labor. 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 GUATEMALA



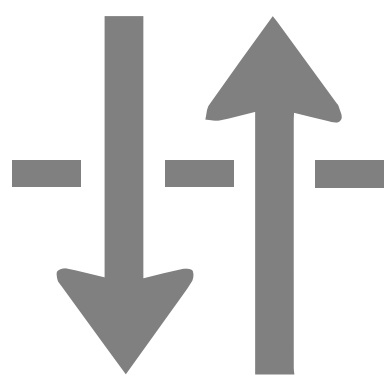
Basemap source: ESRI and UN World Map

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.





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



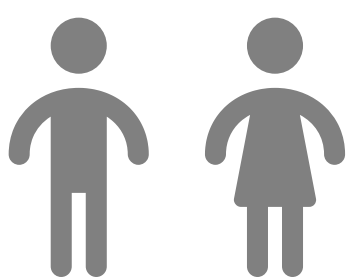
The flow of Central American migrants, mainly from Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and Nicaragua continues despite the restrictions imposed due to the pandemic, and the challenges and risks that migration entails. That said, thousands of people leave their countries of origin in search of better living conditions. Consequently, migrants continue to arrive at the southern borders of both Mexico and the United States in search of a new opportunity for survival with greater security and better living conditions.



According to the sources interviewed and the media consulted, the factors that push these populations to leave their country of origin are mainly associated with meeting basic health, education, and security needs<sup>1</sup>. As well as the crisis caused by climate change, which has mainly affected the agriculture of peasants living in rural areas.



In this regard, last May, Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO), President of Mexico, proposed the "Sowing Life" program in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador at a virtual climate summit. The program will be promoted in southeastern Mexico and Central America to plant 3 billion additional trees and generate 1.2 million jobs<sup>2</sup>.



The commitment to jointly address the challenges related to irregular migration was reiterated, as well as to strengthen mechanisms for the protection and comprehensive care of children and adolescents, both accompanied and unaccompanied. In addition, the first meeting of organizations with delegates of the National Migration Authority was held, with the aim of making known the elements and criteria proposed for the development of the National Migration Policy<sup>3</sup>. This event allows to highlight the urgency of the migration issue and the need to address migration with a focus beyond border security, otherwise the events of the past months, regarding the caravans in Guatemala, will continue to increase.

<sup>1</sup> La Hora. Number of children crossing the border to the U.S. drops in May. (2021) Available at: <https://lahora.gt/baja-en-mayo-numero-de-ninos-que-cruzan-frontera-hacia-ee-uu/>

<sup>2</sup> Expansión Política. AMLO calls for granting citizenship to beneficiaries of "Sowing Life" (2021) Available at: <https://politica.expansion.mx/presidencia/2021/04/22/amananera-amlo-escucha-mensaje-de-biden-en-la-cumbre-sobre-cambio-climatico#uuid00000178-f9c2-d8bd-ad7f-fbcbaade0000>

<sup>3</sup> Guatemalan Institute of Migration. National Migration Policy Formulation Process Continues. (2021). Available at: <https://igm.gob.gt/continua-proceso-de-formulacion-de-la-politica-migratoria-nacional/>



# INCOMING MIGRATION FLOWS



**714 migrants**  
**Border crossing points Entre Ríos,**  
**El Naranjo and Tecún Umán**  
**May 2021**

## NATIONALITIES

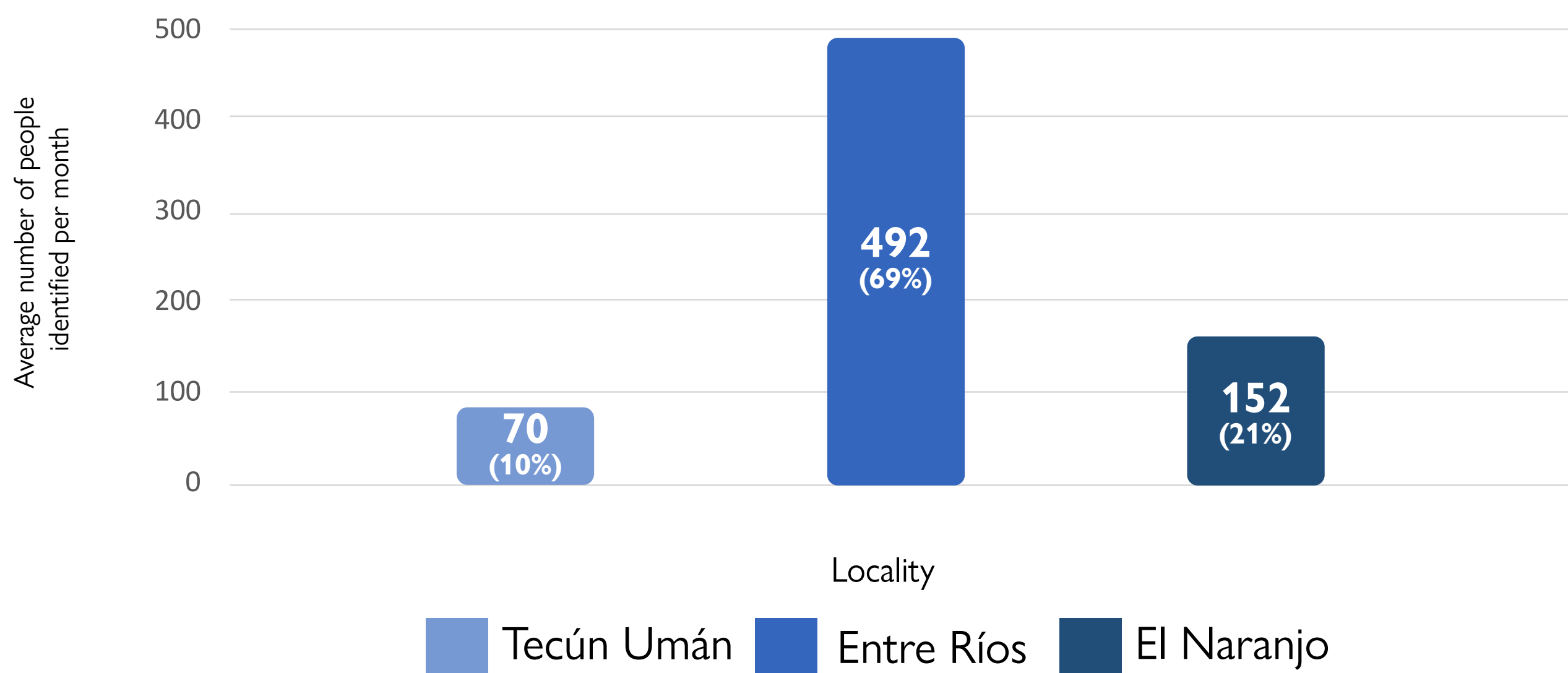


At the Entre Ríos border, in Izabal, key informants estimated that 492 people entered from Honduras in May, all of them Hondurans. At El Naranjo border, the irregular incoming flow was estimated at 152 persons. These are Hondurans working in Mexico and returning irregularly to Guatemala. In Tecún Umán, 70 Guatemalan nationals were estimated to have entered the country. Regarding the composition of the migration flow by gender, 74 percent of the people who entered Guatemala were men.

In relation to people in vulnerable conditions, the limitations of field personnel to identify differentiated profiles persist, so that a quantitative approach is available according to the capacities of each key informant. 37 minors were identified in the entries in El Naranjo, representing 24 percent of the entries for this locality.

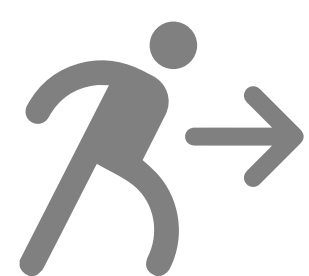
In the case of Entre Ríos, 8 percent of the admissions were identified as people in vulnerable conditions: 34 minors, including 4 children under 5 years of age; in addition, three LGBTI+ people and two internally displaced persons were identified, the latter referred to Tierra Nueva, a Non-Governmental Organization. In the case of Tecún Umán, no persons in vulnerable conditions have been observed entering through the border point.

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



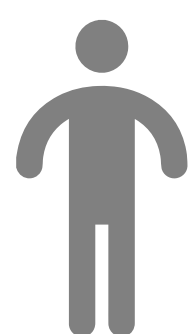
Source: Key informants.

# OUTGOING MIGRATION FLOWS



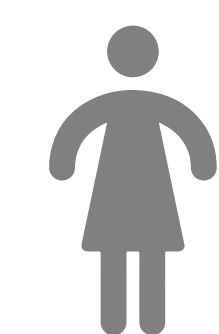
**2,203** migrants

**Border crossing points El Naranjo y Tecún Umán**  
May 2021



Men

## GENDER



Women

**86%**

**14%**

## NATIONALITIES

**98%**



Honduras

**1%**



Guatemala

**1%**



Nicaragua

The main outgoing flow during the period was identified in El Naranjo, with 1,553 people. However, key informants mentioned an important outgoing flow in Tecún Umán, estimated at 650 people. In both localities, migrants are almost entirely from Honduras. In total, 98 percent of the people are Honduran, and 2 percent correspond to other nationalities such as Guatemala and Nicaragua. Regarding the composition of the migration flow by gender, 86 percent of the people leaving Guatemala were men.

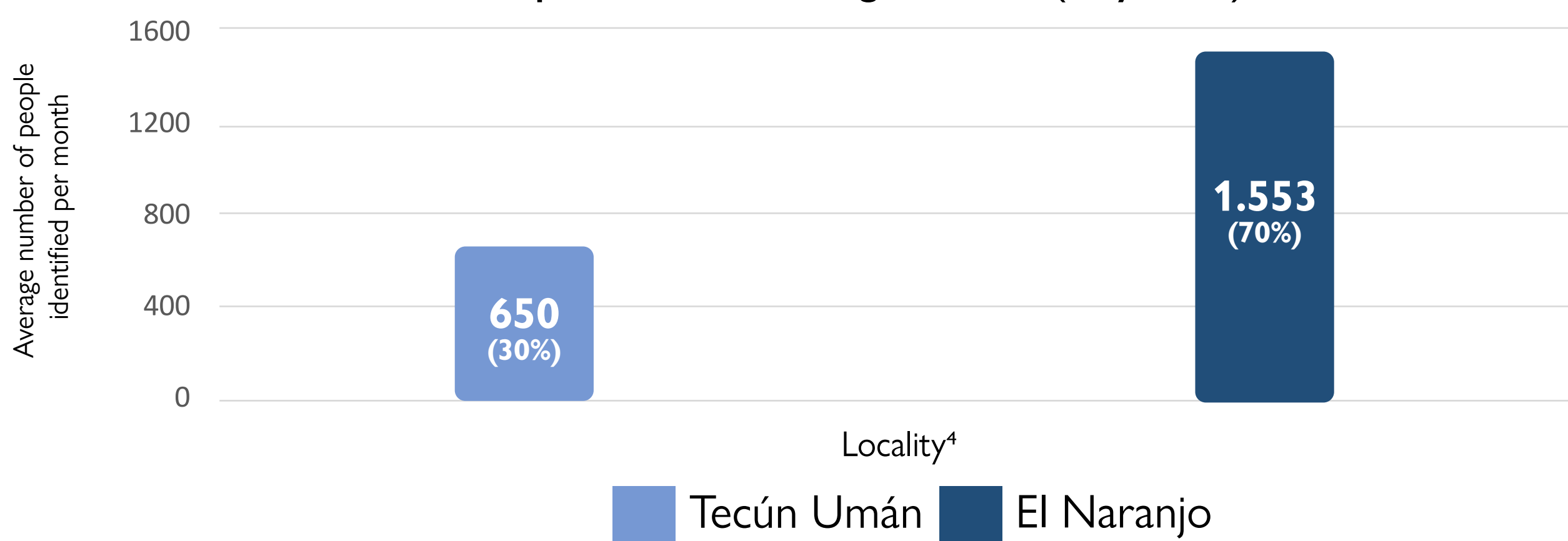
According to the sources interviewed, migrants entering through El Corinto border in Izabal tend to transit through the department of Petén. Petén has four border crossings, two of which are official and are located in the municipalities of La Libertad and Las Cruces. The official borders tend to be evaded by irregular migrants. According to those interviewed, most migrants arriving in El Ceibo use the blind crossings in the community of El Naranjo and, to a lesser extent, in Bethel. To evade migration controls, they cross the border at La Técnica by boat on the Usumacinta River at night, when there is less migration control on both sides of the border. Migrants arriving at the Tecún Umán border in San Marcos enter through El Florido and Agua Caliente in Chiquimula, on the border with Honduras. They seek to enter Mexico through blind crossings, mainly through the Suchiate River. On some occasions they move through the highlands of this department and seek the borders with blind crossings in the municipality of Tacaná.

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.

However, in El Naranjo, 37 minors were identified, 19 of whom are under 5 years of age. In addition, at least two persons with disabilities were identified, seven LGBTI+ persons and 15 internally displaced persons who were assisted by the Children's Shelter. In the case of Tecún Umán, 15 minors were identified leaving through the border town.

It should be noted that the outgoing flow could be underestimated because the flow of Guatemalans is not reflected, although there is a significant flow of returnees every month. However, it is not known whether these people entered Mexico regularly or irregularly.

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



<sup>4</sup> No persons were identified leaving through the border town of Entre Ríos.



## CONCLUSIONS



The incoming flow to Guatemala is mainly composed of Hondurans crossing the border at Entre Ríos.



The main outgoing flow during the period was concentrated at El Naranjo border. However, according to information provided by the authorities on irregular migrants detained in the country, outgoing flow could be strongly underestimated.



The limitations of key informants for the identification of profiles in vulnerable conditions, except for minors, are highlighted.



It is difficult to obtain a general overview of the migration situation in Guatemala from the key informants selected. These informants have little information on the outgoing flows of Guatemalans. In addition, the report evidences the existence of other entry and exit points than the border points monitored.



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

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