



# **Migration, the Economy and Remittances in Central America**

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## Introduction

This memo offers an insight about the impact of the global pandemic and devastating hurricanes Eta and Iota.<sup>1</sup> We present data on individuals' intentions to migrate in Guatemala and Honduras. Creative Associates International's 2019 *Saliendo Adelante* study revealed that three key factors drove migration intentions—transnational ties, economic situation and victimization. The 2020 study points to the role of crises in exacerbating the economic drivers of emigration. As a result of natural disasters in 2020, transnational ties and victimization took backseat to economic reasons for emigration. This memo highlights the following:<sup>2</sup>

- The number of migrants leaving the region may be as large as in 2018, to over 400,000 people;
- Half of those migrants are adults, and one quarter will be unaccompanied minors, the rest family groups;
- The pandemic had a distinctively strong economic effect on Central Americans, either through job losses; less work, loss of savings or material destruction from the hurricanes;
- Even in the midst of the pandemic one in ten Guatemalans and two in ten Hondurans plan to migrate in 2021 (down from 14% and 33% in 2019). This would amount to at least 2% of all migrants from these countries arriving in 2021;
- The main factors getting people to leave their countries are job loss or not having received remittances;
- Nearly half of those who intend to migrate in 2021 will actually do so, largely through the US southwest border.

Given the severity of the impact and the longstanding problem of outmigration under poorly performing economies, the memo recommends an economic stabilization approach to tackle migration and development altogether.

### I. The persistence of migration waves in Central America?

The Central American region has been plagued by a myriad of problems and international migration is both a consequence and symptoms of the various challenges faced with. The main problem with migration is due to several issues. First, the magnitude, size of it is significantly and alarmingly large. Second, most migration is irregular, cross border, unsafe and longstanding. Third, the people leaving the region are not only adults, but includes a critical mass of youth that migrate unaccompanied by parents or guardians. Fourth, the causes or risk factors leading to making people migrate include complex dynamics, largely economic but that are tied to other challenges.

#### ***An alarmingly large number***

The number of people attempting to leave Central America, particularly the three countries with the largest number, is significantly large. The number of people leaving include those apprehended (with an

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<sup>1</sup> Results discussed here build on Creative's pioneering study *Saliendo Adelante*<sup>1</sup> and joint work with the Inter-American Dialogue in Guatemala.

<sup>2</sup> See appendix for survey tabulations. The fieldwork in Guatemala was carried out by the Inter-American Dialogue, and the work in Honduras by CREA Consultores. We thank the IAD for joint collaboration in the Guatemala survey.

average 11% recidivism rate),<sup>3</sup> those who left through legal immigration, and those who largely successfully crossed the border irregularly.<sup>4</sup>

The number of apprehensions or detentions alone of Central Americans in the US border in 2018 was over 300,000, increasing even more a year later. Even during the pandemic people continued to attempt to cross the US border. Altogether, this is the largest number accounting for the magnitude of people migrating.

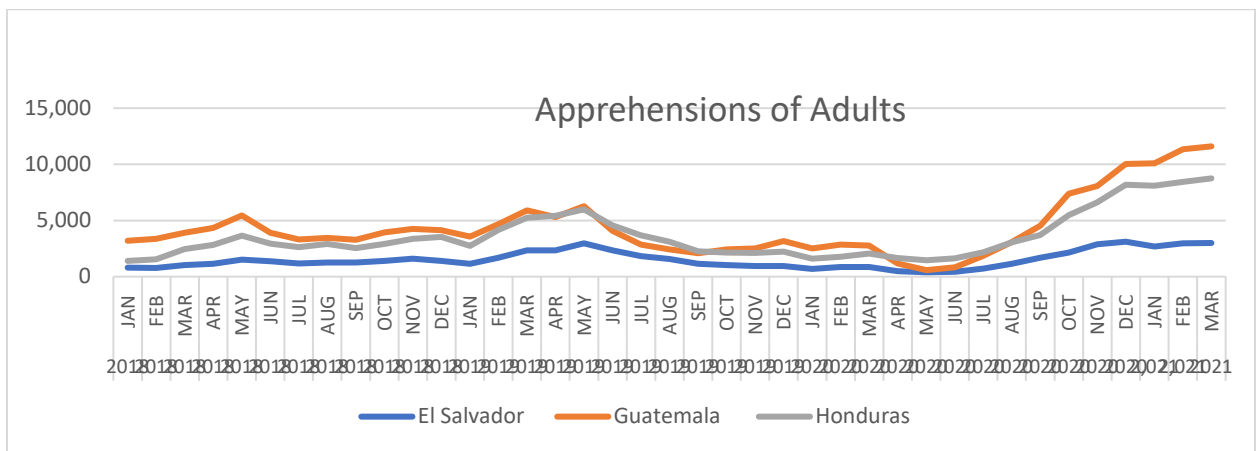
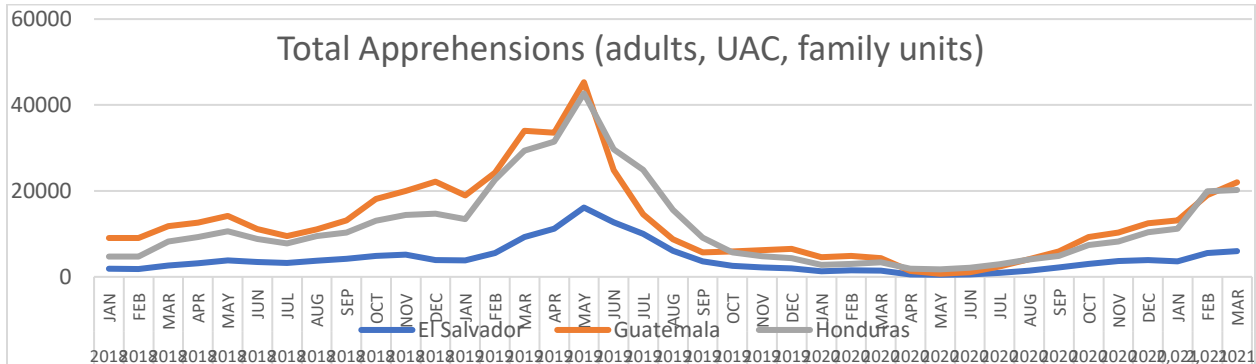


Table A: Apprehensions in the U.S. Border

Year	Adults			All			Adult share		
	El Salvador	Guatemala	Honduras	El Salvador	Guatemala	Honduras	El Salvador	Guatemala	Honduras
2,018	14,799	46,560	32,760	41,981	161,845	116,845	35%	29%	28%
2,019	20,317	45,328	43,648	85,059	228,575	233,812	24%	20%	19%
2,020	15,433	45,714	39,378	21,051	61,488	52,594	73%	74%	75%
Labor force increment (2019)	33,463	189,075	127,492						

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/cbp-enforcement-statistics>; recidivism rate is the percent of individuals apprehended more than once.

<sup>4</sup> There is less than 2% of visa overstayers from Central America, typically overstaying up to a year. ([https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/20\\_0513\\_fy19-entry-and-exit-overstay-report.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/20_0513_fy19-entry-and-exit-overstay-report.pdf)).

Source: <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters>. Note that there is also a migration surge from Nicaraguans. In 2018 there were 3437 apprehensions and in 2019 the number went up to 13,373.

### ***Minors and families***

This migration situation is worse given the fact that most migrants are not single adults. Recently one third of those apprehended were individual adults, but the rest are part of a mix of family units (of which a minor is involved) and unaccompanied minors.

At least half of all people migrating are adults, but the other half are minors. These minors either arrived by themselves at the US border or were detained with a guardian or parent. The number of kids leaving the region is as large as the annual matriculation in high school in many cases.

Table B: Unaccompanied minors apprehended/ encountered or detained at the US border

Year	El Salvador	Guatemala	Honduras
2,018	8,313	28,531	16,306
2,019	13,420	29,053	20,909
2,020	4,431	11,254	7,424

Source: <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters>

The magnitude is alarmingly problematic.

Looking at apprehension figures in the first quarter of 2021 and growth of apprehensions as well as the share of the first quarter from previous years, the number of apprehensions may be as large as in 2018.<sup>5</sup> Moreover, 2020 survey data for Guatemalan and Honduran households points that a significant percentage, albeit smaller than 2019, is considering migrating.

Table C: Estimates of apprehension/encounters at the US border in 2021

	Apprehension/Encounters		
Year	El Salvador	Guatemala	Honduras
Adults	32438	123768	93,882
UAC	3,019	15,616	9,688
All migrants	56,230	196,213	198,008
Adult share	57%	61%	49%

### ***Irregular cross-border***

Most migration is of an irregular, without visa status, nature. Between apprehensions at the border, legal entry through immigration permanent residency and cross border unregularized entry, most people make the trek by land without papers to enter. Only a few make it through the border, typically

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<sup>5</sup> Using quarterly growth of apprehensions and the first quarter share of every year, we computed an estimate of detentions in 2021.

one fifth of those who are apprehended.<sup>6</sup> The problem is that those who are apprehended, hundreds of thousands, lose time, money and risk their personal safety.

This is not a recent reality but one that goes back at least since 2009 with the post-global recession period.

Table D: Migration to the US by status

Households with individuals with an intention to migrate				
2021	250,000	430,000	575,00	1,255,000
<b>Total outmigration estimate =</b>				
<b>(legal entry + irregular border crossing, + apprehensions + overstays)</b>				
2021	56,230	196,213	198,008	450,452
<b>Share between the intention and actual outmigration</b>				
	22%	46%	34%	36%
<b>A. Legal permanent status arrivals</b>				
Year	El Salvador	Guatemala	Honduras	Three countries
2,018	16014	9188	6997	32,199
2019	10,605	5,479	6,045	22,129
2020	5,343	2302	2,250	9,895
2021 est.	5,000	2500	2300	10,000
<b>B. Non-immigrant visa of foreign labor entry (2019)</b>				
H2A	157	2537	306	3,000
H2B	653	3269	829	4,751
<b>C. Irregular entry estimates</b>				
2018**	25,004	35,390	23,772	84,166
2020*		14,000	8,000	22,000
2021 est.	8,000	20,000	18,000	46,000
<b>D. Apprehensions</b>				
2018**	41,981	161,845	116,845	320,671
2020*	21,051	61,488	52,594	135,133
2021 est.	45,282	162,432	154,194	361,908
<b>E. Visa Overstayers***</b>				
2019	3,432	5,664	4,745	13,841
2021 est.	1,716	2,832	2,373	6,921

Source: US Visa Statistics, <https://travel.state.gov/content/dam/visas/Statistics/AnnualReports>; <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/legal/visa-law0/visa-statistics/nonimmigrant-visa-statistics.html>. \* as per survey respondents that 0.9% and 1% of their relatives went to the US. \*\*surveys on migrants in the US point that 2.5% arrived the same year they were interviewed. \*\*\* [https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/20\\_0513\\_fy19-entry-and-exit-overstay-report.pdf](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/20_0513_fy19-entry-and-exit-overstay-report.pdf), for 2021 with the travel restrictions in place, a maximum equivalent to 50% of 2019 travelers is considered as overstayers.

<sup>6</sup> Typically between 2% and 3% of all migrants in the United States, say they entered that same year through the US border.



## II. A Difficult 2020 and considerations for migrating.

The large number of people intending to migrate stems from a combination of there being a significant portion of the population with an intention to migrate and to an exacerbation of factors that push people to leave their country. This section presents the results of two surveys carried out in Guatemala and Honduras reflecting on people's experiences during the pandemic and material conditions affecting them. It also identifies the determinants of the intention to migrate.<sup>7</sup>

### The effect of the pandemic in Central America

Like elsewhere in the world with negative growth and the spread of contagion, Guatemalans and Hondurans stressed that the pandemic affected them largely on economic grounds. For example, both nationals stressed that the most immediate effect was the loss of income due to less work. Apart from the quarantine, the third most concerning issue not having enough food due to economic insecurity (see Table below).

Table E: How has the COVID-19 pandemic affected you?

	Guatemala	Honduras
My income has decreased due to a decrease in work or business	22.90%	18.1%
I have to be careful not to leave the house (quarantine)	20.60%	15.0%
There isn't enough food at home because our incomes have decreased due to less work / less business	13.80%	14.8%
Me or someone in my house has been infected with COVID	5.00%	9.8%
I have family members abroad who haven't been able to return to Guatemala/Honduras	6.10%	9.0%
Someone I know (neighbor, friend, coworker) died	8.90%	8.9%
A close family member died	2.60%	8.6%
I lost my job or business	8.20%	8.3%
I have to tutor or teach my kids	7.90%	7.5%

Guatemalans share the same top concern as Hondurans with 11.9% choosing the panic the COVID-19 pandemic has created as the most difficult part of the pandemic.

Table F: The most difficult part of COVID-19 has been...

	Guatemala	Honduras
The panic it has created	11.90%	14.2%
I work less hours than before	9.80%	9.4%
I lost my savings	9.40%	8.6%
Someone in my house lost their job	7.60%	8.0%
There is a scarcity of food in the house now	8.20%	7.8%
It hasn't affected me yet	8.30%	7.6%
I'm scared I may lose my job	5.30%	6.7%
I feel alright now, but I'm not sure about the future	8.90%	6.7%

<sup>7</sup> For a description of the survey methodology see the tabulated reported results.

I lost my business	2.70%	6.3%
As an independent or informal worker, there isn't much work right now	8.60%	6.2%
Seeing my children not being able to continue their studies	5.50%	5.3%
I lost my job	4.00%	5.2%
We suffer more violence at home now	0.20%	4.1%
I can't pay my mortgage or rent	7.60%	4.0%

After the sense of panic, economic problems were reported as being the most difficult for people during the pandemic. Nearly ten percent of both groups say that the most difficult problem to them during COVID-19 is working less hours, having lost a job or losing their savings. More than twice as many Honduran respondents than Guatemalan (14.1% v 6.5%) attested to scarcity of food in their family members' homes due to a decrease in income or less work. More Guatemalans than Hondurans reported being unable to pay mortgage or rent (7.6% v 4.0%) (see Appendix for table questions and responses).

Many of these nationalities also have relatives abroad and shared the experiences faced by them. For Guatemalan respondents with families in the US, 23.3% stated that their family members now have to take care to quarantine, 10.2% that they lost their job or business, 18.6% that their incomes have declined due to less work or business, and 11.6% that their family members abroad have not been able to return home to Guatemala. Results from Hondurans differed slightly. 16% stated that a family member or someone in the household abroad got sick with COVID-19, and 14.7% stated that they lost a job or business.

***Hurricanes Eta and Iota***

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, two hurricanes affected Central America. Tropical Storm Eta first arrived on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, and less than two weeks later Hurricane Iota made her landfall as well. Both storms struck Nicaragua before heading over Honduras and Guatemala.

Because the survey in Honduras was conducted immediately after Hurricane Eta, the study captured effects of the storm and attitudes toward government response. 32.3% of Hondurans reported that their home had some form of material damage, including some cases of structural damage. 29% had a family member or close friend whose home was damaged. 13.6% have someone in their home or someone close to them who suffered physical injury from the storm, including some cases of death. Finally, 25.1% attested to their job (or someone in their household's job) being suspended due to the storm. In regard to attitudes toward prevention and management of the destruction caused by Hurricane Eta, 62.7% of respondents rated the government at a 1 out of 10, the worst possible score. 11.4% ranked the government's response to Eta at a 2, and 8.4% at a 3.

***Income conditions***

The reality of the pandemic and its economic dimension is troublesome in many respects. For example, only 3.8% of Hondurans and 1.5% of Guatemalans say their incomes are sufficient to both cover expenses and save money. Over half of Guatemalans reported that their household income was only enough to cover basic expenses. 30.6% said their income was not sufficient to even makes ends meet.



In comparison, when Hondurans were asked this question, 33.4% said their income covered basic expenses, but 20.2% stated that their income was not enough for *any* expenses.

In fact, the average household income for Guatemalans reported was US\$373.51 and \$419.06 for Hondurans. While real annual per capita GDP increased by an average of 3% and 2.7% respectively, the 3% growth of the economy set back per capita income to 2017. Most of these advancements were erased by drop in exports and tourism in 2020 leaving millions of people in the region to face food insecurity and loss of livelihoods. In fact, 22.9% of Guatemalans and 18.1% of Hondurans reported a decrease in income because of less work available during the pandemic. Most of both Guatemalans and Hondurans consider their economic situation to be worse today than it was three months prior. When asked if they believe their country is moving in the right direction, only 29.6% of Guatemalans and 18.8% of Hondurans said yes.

### ***Economic Stress in Context: Role of Informality, Lack of Social Protections to Meet Basic Needs***

While job loss, insecurity and fear are not unique to Guatemalans and Hondurans, the ramifications of job and income loss are especially acute given the broader labor and social support context in both countries. In both countries, informal labor makes up nearly half of the labor force. Informal labor is characterized by employment that has no health or safety protections and without access to social insurance in the case of sudden loss of unemployment, sickness or death.

Public efforts to help people to meet basic needs during the pandemic have been lacking in both nations. In most instances, individuals must rely on private savings, remittances or the ability to work extra hours to stabilize their incomes in times of shock.<sup>8</sup>

### **The intention and reasons to migrate in 2021?**

Surveyed members were asked about their intention to migrate. Among Guatemalans 9.7% said they planned on migrating within the next 12 months, and 22.8% of Hondurans (or one person in over 500,000 households). In 2019, the intention to migrate as reported in *Saliendo Adelante's* study was 16% and 33% respectively.

In terms of education, 5.7% of Guatemalans with a university degree stated that they or a family member plan to migrate to another country within the next year, in comparison with 83.7% of university graduates who do *not* plan to migrate. In Honduras, however, a higher percentage of university graduates responded affirmative to the question, with 26.9% planning to migrate, as opposed to 56.2% who do not plan on migrate. Among high school graduates, 11.1% of Guatemalans and 19.2% of Hondurans plan to migrate. Finally, 11.2% of Guatemalans and 31.7% of Hondurans with a primary level education asserted their intention to migrate.

The percent of Guatemalan women respondents was lower than that of men with an intention of migrating than not. While 8.4% of women thought to migrate, 11.3% of men plan to do so. In Honduras, the gender gap in intention to migrate is much smaller, however. 23.6% of men and 25% of women plan

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<sup>8</sup> Orozco, Manuel. The impact of migrants' remittances and investment on rural youth. IFAD. Research Series, 56. 2019.

to migrate. Regarding age, 10.5% of youth under the age of 30 in Guatemala plan to migrate. In Honduras, the number for youth is over twice as high with 24.1% reporting an intention to migrate.

The primary reason given for migrating is economic. Among Hondurans, the intention is explicitly economic (10.6% said “to send money home to family” and 9% said “because incomes here are very low”), while in Guatemala it is for the betterment of life for the respondent and their families (14.7%) followed by sending money home to families (13.8%). Another important reason in this context is family members living abroad. 36.9% of Guatemalans and 57.3% of Hondurans have family members living in other countries.

Table G: Why would you or your family migrate?

	Guatemala	Honduras
<b><i>Aspirational Improvements</i></b>		
Because my family or friends recommended it	6.00%	6.5%
To be with family	4.80%	2.2%
To study or so that my kids can study in another country	6.00%	6.3%
To better my life or the lives of my children / family	14.70%	9.8%
To send money home to family	13.80%	10.6%
<b><i>Economic Difficulties</i></b>		
Because here the income is very low	12.30%	9.0%
Cost of living is too high – I can't live here	5.80%	6.3%
Because there are no jobs here	9.40%	6.9%
Because there is hardly any yield from harvest anymore	4.50%	3.8%
Because we lost our land	3.20%	4.2%
<b><i>Natural Disaster/Crisis</i></b>		
Because of the situation caused by COVID-19	3.60%	8.0%
Because of the damage caused by Hurricane Eta		5.1%
<b><i>Victimization &amp; Politics</i></b>		
Because there is so much violence here	5.00%	7.7%
Because I / my family was threatened through extortion	0.30%	4.6%
Because of the political situation here	4.80%	8.9%

When migrants are asked why they would choose to migrate, answers range from economic to livelihoods, cost of living, education opportunities, extortion, threats, violence, damage from tropical storm, reuniting with family, and political reasons.

### Understanding the determinants of migration

Looking at these trends, mostly exacerbated by the pandemic and hurricane, the study analyzed those critical issues that show more significance in shaping the decision to migrate. Previous analysis of data on intentions to migrate among individuals in the Northern Triangle indicates that age, education and economic outlook are important in people's decision to migrate internationally.

Data from 2020 is examined here to see whether the onset of a global pandemic created a new landscape where these factors play more or less of a role in migration intentions. The table below presents statistically significant results of two regression models, one for Guatemala and the other for Honduras, aimed at understanding the relationship between migration intentions and remittance receipt, individual's economic outlook, income, and employment. For Honduras, loss of housing due to hurricane Eta is also included.

In both models, not receiving remittances was associated with greater odds ratios (OR) of intending to migrate (OR = 8.55 in Guatemala and OR = 2.10 in Honduras). Similarly, the odds ratios of intending to migrate among those that lost work due to the pandemic was 2.39 for Guatemalans and 1.41 for Hondurans.

In other aspects results suggest a different landscape between the two countries. For example, receiving less remittances in 2020 than in 2019 (OR = 2.47) was statistically significantly associated with intention to migrate in Guatemala. In contrast, in Honduras intention to migrate was statistically significantly associated with receiving the same in remittances in 2019 and 2020 (OR = 1.71). The odd ratios of migrating by sex align with descriptive results mentioned earlier; a difference in intention to migrate between men and women was more noticeable in Guatemala than in Honduras. Among Hondurans, the odds ratio of migrating was 1.28 among those that had their home damaged by hurricane ETA and 2.43 among the unemployed. It was also 3.02 for those in the informal economy.

Table H: Intention to Migrate in Honduras and Guatemala, Odds Ratios, 2020

	Guatemala	Honduras
	Odds Ratio	Odds Ratio
Sex	0.64**	0.96
Currently Unemployed	0.48	2.43***
Did not receive remittances in 2020	8.55**	2.10**
Received same in remittances in 2020 as in 2019	0.76	1.71*
Received less in remittances in 2020 than 2019	2.47***	1.05
Lost work due to pandemic	2.39***	1.41*
Works in the informal economy	0.89	3.02**
Lost housing due to hurricane Eta	-	1.28***

Notes: \*  $p < .1$ , \*\*  $p < .05$ , \*\*\*  $p < .01$ . Not shown here are independent variables that were not statistically significant in either model: receipt of more remittances in 2020 than in 2019; income under \$400; food insecurity due to pandemic; perception of nation's economic future; working fewer hours due to pandemic. Source: Author's surveys of migrants in Honduras and Guatemala.

These findings shed important light because the intention to migrate is realized among at least one in three people, that is, for example, in the case of Honduras, out of 575,000 people intending to migrate in 2021, nearly 200,000 will do so (once we account for apprehensions, regular entry and irregular cross border entry). The same could apply among Guatemalans (just over 400,000 individuals in a household intend to migrate, against an estimated 200,000 people leaving). Therefore, the urgency of economic necessity spur a critical mass of people who translate their desire into practice.

### III. Thinking about economic stabilization

With the pandemic exacerbating these realities pushing people out, with the possibility of migration continuing to grow past 2021, just as the 2009 global recession showed<sup>9</sup>, it is important to consider a strategy of economic stabilization.

The continued problems in Central America are directly tied to a myriad of issues that lead to migration. Our work has shown that economics, previous migratory ties, and crime and violence correlate with

<sup>9</sup> See our memo, Orozco, Manuel. Insights of international migration...Nov. 2020.

migration and the thought or consideration about migrating. We also have shown the interplay between individual decisions and municipal conditions

Before the pandemic our research<sup>10</sup> indicated that migration:

- was associated with working in the informal economy or being unemployed,
- is determined by those whose household income is less than \$400 and can't make ends meet,
- and disproportionately affected those who have also been exposed to crime.

In 2020, we find that economic issues are predominantly affecting the decision to migrate.

If we consider that remittances are often private substitutes for inexistent public social protection schemes in Northern Triangle countries, the dramatic increase in the odds of migrating among those who are not remittance recipients during the pandemic suggests that the crisis has spurred migration among those without public or private means to smooth their income amidst the current pandemic.

### What to consider on development as a matter of economic stabilization?

The impact of the pandemic in externally dependent and highly informal economies will be more severely affected because they also are the ones exhibiting the lowest economic complexity and where income losses were higher.<sup>11</sup>

It is important to introduce a systemic economic stabilization approach that taps into all economic sectors beyond economic enclaves (such as tourism or agriculture), leverages remittances as source for financing, and targets people at risk of migrating; that is those largely based in industries heavily hit by the pandemic and natural disasters and informal workers without income protection in the form of employment, personal savings or other insurance mechanisms (like remittances).

#### The informal economy—

Central to the region's recovery and migration mitigation is a stabilization program that targets a critical mass of the labor force, its private sector and the most vulnerable population. Businesses in the informal economy make a very small contribution to national income but capture more than half of its labor force. In terms of the economic impact of the pandemic, these businesses and workers did not lose jobs, but stopped working the equivalent of one month of income. Those losses are unrecoverable in the short term.

Often the emphasis on certain strategies (agricultural exports and tourism, for example) has been made at the expense of other forms of economic development almost missing the most prevalent migration risk factors. For example, the vast informal sector should receive more attention. It is comprised of more than two thirds of the labor force and the business sector together. It is euphemistic to talk about a private sector in Central America when most of these enterprises are one-person businesses with earnings that do not generate substantive wealth.

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<sup>10</sup> Saliendo Adelante

<sup>11</sup> Orozco, Manuel. *About the economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the region*. August 2020. Creative Associates.

At the same time, addressing informality has proven to be difficult and largely unsuccessful: Central America has not managed to reduce the size of its informal sector in the past 40 years. It is a chronic problem that cannot be resolved as part of a single strategy.

The informal economy lies at the intersection of underdevelopment, the root causes of migration, and migrant capital. The presence of informality is systemic and affects at least 13 million workers, of which nearly 10 million are informal. A conservative approach would focus on an investment in formalizing a certain number of microenterprises in order to enhance their competitive capacity.

Table I: Labor Force and Business Indicators (2017)

<b>Indicators</b>	<b>El Salvador</b>	<b>Guatemala</b>	<b>Honduras</b>	<b>Northern Triangle</b>
<i>Labor force indicators</i>				
<i>Labor force</i>	2,799,821	6,613,075	4,203,333	13,616,229
<i>Formal jobs</i>	660,000	1,700,000	850,000	3,210,000
<i>Informal workers</i>	1,959,875	4,629,153	3,152,500	9,741,528
<i>Unemployment</i>	139,991	330,654	210,167	680,812
<i>Annual increase of labor force</i>	50,000	201,991	100,000	351,991
<i>New Annual formal jobs</i>	6,000	20,000	8,500	34,500
<i>Annual informal work</i>	40,500	165,000	85,000	290,500
<i>Business composition</i>				
<i>Formalized businesses</i>	167,000	400,000	175,000	742,000
<i>Informal businesses</i>	668,000	1,600,000	700,000	2,968,000
<i>Microenterprise (1-10) (2)</i>	95.80%	90%	95.80%	3
<i>Small business (10-50) (20)</i>	3.10%	7%	3.10%	0
<i>Medium size (50-100) (68)</i>	0.40%	1%	0.40%	0
<i>Large businesses +100 (330)</i>	0.30%	2%	0.30%	0
<i>Migration indicators</i>				

Source: Orozco, Manuel.

A focus on the informal sector is necessary but also urgent, particularly given the way the pandemic had a direct negative effect on growth, particularly on those sectors outside the modern economy (digital financial and economic segments) that were not able to quickly adapt to new processes associated to social distance and quarantining.



**Table J: Economic Indicators for Central America, 2019-2020**

Country	El Salvador	Guatemala	Honduras	Nicaragua
<b>The economy</b>				
Population	6,486,446	16,863,113	9,906,017	6,625,984
PC Income 2019	\$ 4,187	\$ 4,620	\$ 2,575	\$ 1,913
GDP (Current USD) 2019	\$ 26,630,254,000	\$ 81,049,642,701	\$ 24,665,017,253	\$ 12,535,599,610
Day losses of work during the pandemic 2020	17%	11%	18%	10%
GDP 2020	\$ 24,829,061,786	\$ 78,395,403,354	\$ 23,694,883,946	\$ 12,012,517,195
Growth 2020	-7%	-3%	-4%	-4%
PC GDP 2020	\$ 3,828	\$ 4,649	\$ 2,392	\$ 1,813
Growth Inform	-11%	-7%	-6%	-4%
Growth Formal	-6%	-2%	-3%	-4%
PC GDP Growth2020	-9%	1%	-7%	-5%
<b>The informal sector</b>				
Informal Economy Contribution to GDP 2019	\$ 5,858,655,880	\$ 17,830,921,394	\$ 5,672,953,968	\$ 3,133,899,902
Size of the informal economy (%)	62.88	72.77	75.55	74.91
Size of the informal labor force	1,754,332	5,277,045	3,486,741	2,283,746
Size of the labor force	2,789,969	7,250,681	4,614,534	3,048,653
<b>The external sector</b>				
Exports G&S	\$ 6,505,004,242	\$ 15,070,574,529	\$ 10,610,257,559	\$ 5,861,048,635
Remittances	\$ 5,650,210,000	\$ 10,508,307,400	\$ 5,424,037,908	\$ 1,699,838,818
External factors (X G&S, Remit)	46%	32%	65%	60%
Growth Remittances	4%	7%	4%	9%
Growth Exports	-14%	-1%	1%	6%
Growth Tourism	-63%	-75%	-68%	-53%

Source: Orozco, Manuel. *About the economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the region*. August 2020. Creative Associates International. Orozco, Manuel. *Global flows of Family Remittances*, February 2021. Creative Associates International.

### **Family remittances and savings mobilization—**

Moreover, is important to leverage remittances for economic growth. One of the key factors associated to migration is that migrants send money back home. The contribution of remittances to the region's economy is substantive in so far as it represents 20% of GDP for two countries and over 10% for Guatemala.

These flows are the largest source of foreign exchange in the region and generate disposable income for at least 4 million households. Moreover, remittances increase disposable income and offer opportunities to build wealth. However, those opportunities are sought through migration in so far as incentives to invest savings are limited. Within the context of the pandemic those who stopped receiving were more likely to migrate, motivating them to invest their income as they recover from the crisis, is a central element.

Table K: Family Remittances to Central America

Indicators	Costa Rica	El Salvador	Guatemala	Honduras	Nicaragua	Central America
<b>Migrant senders</b>	125,000	1,088,503	1,500,000	755,556	750,000	4,219,059
<b>Remittances in 2019</b>	\$518,197,025	\$5,650,270,000	\$10,508,307,400	\$5,384,500,000	\$1,682,400,000	\$23,743,674,425
<b>Remittances 2020</b>	\$505,800,000	\$5,896,799,100	\$11,202,258,071	\$5,615,072,000	\$1,828,500,000	\$25,048,429,171
<b>Rem. Growth</b>	-2%	4%	7%	4%	9%	
<b>From USA</b>	65%	90%	90%	80%	60%	
<b>US Outbound</b>	\$328,770,000	\$5,307,119,190	\$10,082,032,263	\$4,492,064,800	\$1,097,100,000	\$21,307,086,254
<b>US Transfers</b>	81,250	979,652	1,350,000	680,000	450,000	\$3,540,902
<b>Trade Growth</b>	1%	-14%	-1%	1%	6%	
<b>Tourism growth</b>	-58%	-63%	-75%	-68%	-53%	
<b>GDP growth</b>	-4%	-9%	-3%	-3%	-4%	
<b>Remittances (% GDP)</b>	1%	23%	14%	24%	14%	12%
<b>Migrants / Pop</b>	3%	20%	11%	9%	14%	11%
<b>Number of Households Receiving remittances</b>	8%	59%	32%	27%	40%	33%

Source: Orozco, Manuel. Central Bank Data; For GDP growth and Remittances GDP, ECLAC.

We have demonstrated that the increase in disposable income from remittance transfers increases savings capabilities.<sup>12</sup> Our research and work in the Central America region show that financial advising can help formalize at least 20% of savings among remittance recipients. Moreover, savings formalization reduces the intention to migrate.<sup>13</sup>

### *Invest in human capital—*

Promoting a more qualified labor force through training in key areas and strengthening the knowledge economy is a central step to mitigate migration. Central America’s challenge is partly associated to its limited economic complexity, which today is in fact at the core of productivity and wealth. According to Harvard’s the Center for International Development, economic complexity is a “measure of the knowledge in a society that gets translated into the products it makes. A country is considered ‘complex’ if it exports not only highly complex products (determined by the Product Complexity Index), but also a large number of different products.

The more complex a country's economy, the stronger its infrastructure and the more adaptable it is to market changes.” As mentioned above, the region’s integration to the global economy has concentrated in activities that still are enclaved or whose labor force has not adopted all that capital to compete in national scale. Specifically, the country’s ability to produce complex outputs is still quite limited. Looking at its exports, a central measure of economic competitiveness and complexity, the Northern Triangle exports are concentrated in few economic activities.

In fact, according to the Index of Economic Complexity, Guatemala and Honduras are ranked 74 and 80 out of 127 countries, that is, is countries with limited economic complexity (compare Costa Rica ranked in 46 place). Investments in the knowledge economy can contribute fundamentally to reduce the lack of

<sup>12</sup> See for example, Chapter 6, Orozco, Manuel. *Migrant Remittances and Development in the Global Economy*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 2013.

<sup>13</sup> Inter-American Dialogue. *Opportunities for My Community Project: A Strategy for Guatemala*, August, 2018.

complexity. Investing in education to complement the existing public education system in areas of high migration, also tackles those youth at risk of migrating.

### ***Expand H2B visas—***

The presence of prior migration and its continuity in a transnational connection with practically the same locations where it has happened for at least the past ten years means that there are family and labor ties that signify the demand side of migration to the U.S.. Therefore, is important to focus on increasing low skill visas (H2B) to those in the region as a measure to mitigate irregular migration while meeting U.S. demands for foreign labor. Increasing low skilled visas goes in the right direction in so far as it can effectively reduce irregular migration by making a guest worker program a competitive but attractive choice.

### **An innovative approach to development**

Central America specifically will greatly benefit from an alternative approach to economic growth and development, considering investing in human capital as a resource and commodity.<sup>14</sup>

This approach of formalizing and mobilizing capital for entrepreneurship, investing in knowledge economies and reducing the informal economy is central to tackle migration as well as structural challenges that make the region less competitive. It is imperative however to target strategies in ways that address the specific risk factors that predominate in different municipalities.

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<sup>14</sup> That is the stock of human resources that create a (socially and economically) active person through values, education, skills, workforce capacity, entrepreneurship, innovation, technology and networks.

## APPENDIX A:

### The Pandemic, ETA and the Intention to Migrate in Guatemala and Honduras 2020

These are the key findings of two surveys administered in Guatemala and Honduras in August and November 2020 (survey methodology section at end). The impact of the pandemic has affected all social sectors the same.

#### ***I. PREGUNTAS COMUNES HECHAS EN GUATEMALA Y HONDURAS***

##### **P1. ¿Cómo lo ha afectado la pandemia del COVID-19?**

	Guatemala	Honduras
Yo o alguien en mi casa se contagio	5.00%	9.8%
Perdí mi empleo o negocio	8.20%	8.3%
Tengo que cuidarme en no salir más (hago cuarentena)	20.60%	15.0%
Un familiar cercano murió	2.60%	8.6%
Alguien conocido murió (vecino, amigo, compañero de trabajo)	8.90%	8.9%
Mis ingresos han decaído debido a menos trabajo – menos negocio	22.90%	18.1%
Tengo familiares en el extranjero que no han podido entrar a Guatemala	6.10%	9.0%
Hay escasez de alimentos en mi hogar porque los ingresos han decaído debido a menos trabajo- menos negocio	13.80%	14.8%
Tengo que ser tutor de mis hijos	7.90%	7.5%
Otro (Especifique)	3.50%	0.00%
No sabe – No Responde	0.50%	0.00%

##### **P2. Lo más difícil de esta crisis de COVID-19 ha sido que...**

	Guatemala	Honduras
Perdí mi trabajo en [mes]	4.00%	5.2%
Temo que puedo perder mi trabajo	5.30%	6.7%
Como trabajador independiente o informal no encuentro mucho trabajo	8.60%	6.2%
Perdí mi negocio	2.70%	6.3%
No puedo pagar mi hipoteca/renta	7.60%	4.0%
Perdí mis ahorros	9.40%	8.6%
Me siento bien ahora, pero no sé en el futuro	8.90%	6.7%
El pánico que se ha creado	11.90%	14.2%
Trabajo menos horas que antes	9.80%	9.4%
Alguien en mi familia ha perdido su empleo	7.60%	8.0%
Aun no me ha afectado personalmente	8.30%	7.6%
Ver que mis hijos no han podido seguir sus estudios	5.50%	5.3%
Ahora hay más escasez de alimentos en la casa	8.20%	7.8%
Sufrimos más violencia en la casa	0.20%	4.1%
Otra (Especifique)	1.80%	0.00%
No sabe – No Responde	0.30%	0.00%

P3. ¿Cuáles medidas financieras ha tomado para enfrentar la crisis?

	Guatemala	Honduras
Buscar un trabajo o fuente de ingresos nuevo	5.90%	4.20%
Buscar un segundo trabajo o fuente de ingreso	8.10%	3.3%
Refinanciar mi hipoteca	1.10%	6.6%
Entregar mi casa al banco	0.90%	6.5%
Declararme en bancarrota	5.10%	3.8%
Mudarme a una casa más barata	4.70%	5.9%
Reducir o moderar mis gastos	25.70%	4.9%
Estoy dependiendo de mis ahorros	8.50%	17.2%
He tenido que dejar de realizar otros gastos que hacía antes	22.90%	8.9%
Estoy tratando de vender algunas posesiones	3.40%	14.2%
Pedir a mis familiares en el extranjero que me manden dinero	1.80%	5.5%
Alguien en mi hogar que no trabajaba antes de la crisis tuvo que empezar a trabajar	5.30%	6.3%
Saqué un préstamo del banco	3.40%	5.8%
Modifiqué mi préstamo con el banco	0.70%	6.5%
Otra (Especifique)	2.00%	0.00%
No sabe – No Responde	0.40%	0.00%

P4. ¿En esta casa hay personas que asisten a la escuela o universidad?

	Guatemala	Honduras
Si	63.90%	55.60%

P4A. ¿Qué han hecho frente a la suspensión de actividades académicas?

	Guatemala	Honduras
Nada, esperar que reanuden las actividades	29.50%	15.50%
Mis hijos se pusieron a trabajar y dejaron la escuela temporalmente	2.80%	9.00%
Mis hijos se pusieron a trabajar y dejaron la escuela permanentemente	0.70%	10.20%
Mis hijos están trabajando y también reciben clases independientes	3.80%	14.50%
Mis hijos realizan las tareas asignadas por el colegio o instituto	39.60%	36.80%
No sabemos qué hacer, pero nos gustaría que siguieran estudiando	23.20%	14.10%
Otro (Especifique)	0.50%	0.00%

P4B. ¿A través de qué medios reciben clases? SOLO SI RESPONDIERON SÍ A LA P4.

	Guatemala	Honduras
Clases de videoconferencia	33.1%	37.5%
Programas escolares del gobierno en la televisión	3.50%	12.6%
Clases impartidas por radio	0.50%	7.7%
El docente llega a la casa	6.30%	9.6%
El docente envía, por medio electrónico, hojas de trabajo que mis hijos deben completar	39.30%	19.1%
Voy al colegio a recoger hojas de trabajo que mis hijos deben completar	15.10%	13.5%

Otro (Especifique)	0.50%	0.00%
No sabe – No Responde	1.80%	0.00%

P5. En una escala de 1 (PÉSIMA) a 10 (EXCELENTE), ¿Cómo califica Ud. la labor del gobierno en materia de prevención y manejo de esta pandemia?

	Guatemala	Honduras
1	15.10%	52.3%
2	4.40%	12.5%
3	10.20%	9.1%
4	6.40%	10.1%
5	19.00%	9.4%
6	9.00%	2.5%
7	14.20%	1.5%
8	12.70%	1.2%
9		0.5%
10	9.10%	0.9%
No sabe – No Responde		

P6. ¿Tiene familiares en el exterior?

	Guatemala	Honduras
No	63.10%	49.60%
Si	36.90%	51.40%

Entre los hondureños, año promedio de haber salido es 2011; 10% salió en el 2019, y 1% en el 2020.

P8. ¿Cómo lo ha afectado la pandemia del COVID-19 a su familiar en el extranjero? SOLO SI RESPONDIÓ “SI” A LA P6.

	Guatemala	Honduras
El familiar o alguien en su casa se contagió	6.80%	16.0%
Perdió el empleo o negocio	10.20%	14.7%
Tiene que cuidarse en no salir más (cuarentena)	23.30%	14.7%
Un familiar cercano murió	2.50%	10.5%
Alguien conocido murió (vecino, amigo, compañero de trabajo)	5.50%	6.2%
Sus ingresos han decaído debido a menos trabajo – menos negocio	18.60%	14.3%
Sus familiares en el extranjero no han podido entrar a Guatemala	11.60%	9.5%
Hay escasez de alimentos en la casa porque los ingresos han decaído debido a menos trabajo- menos negocio	6.50%	14.1%
Otro (Especifique)	1.80%	0.00%
No los ha afectado	11.60%	0.00%
No sabe – No Responde	1.50%	0.00%

P9. ¿Sus familiares que residen en el extranjero a veces le pagan los servicios de la casa, por ejemplo, la luz, el agua, o el internet?

	Guatemala	Honduras
No	72.00%	71.4%



Si	28.00%	28.6%
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P10. ¿Recibe Ud. remesas del extranjero?

	Guatemala	Honduras
No	81.20%	65.70%
Si	18.80%	34.30%
No sabe – No Responde	0.50%	

P11. ¿Cómo cobra o recibe Ud. la remesa? SOLO SI RESPONDIÓ “SI” A LA P10

	Guatemala	Honduras
La recojo en efectivo de una agencia de Banco	64.20%	37.0%
La recojo en efectivo de una cooperativa	3.20%	2.6%
La recojo en efectivo de otra empresa no bancaria (por ejemplo, una sucursal de Western Unión o MoneyGram)	13.20%	31.6%
Me la llevan a casa	0.50%	4.1%
Me la depositan en una cuenta bancaria	18.40%	8.9%
Me la depositan en una billetera electrónica	0.00%	2.4%
Otro	0.50%	0.9%
No sabe – No Responde		12.7%

P12. Ud. diría que para este año 2020: SOLO SI RESPONDIÓ “SI” A LA P10.

	Guatemala	Honduras
Está recibiendo más dinero que en el 2019	11.90%	12.8%
Está recibiendo menos dinero que en el 2019	52.30%	39.7%
Está recibiendo igual cantidad de dinero que en el 2019	31.60%	29.8%
No recibió remesas en 2019	2.60%	9.3%
No sabe – No Responde	1.60%	8.00%

P13. ¿Ud. o un familiar en esta casa tiene planes de emigrar a otro país en los próximos 12 meses?

	Guatemala	Honduras
No	81.20%	57.1%
Si	9.70%	22.8%
No sabe	9.10%	20.1%

P14. ¿Cuál es la razón por la que Ud. o su familiar emigraría?

	Guatemala	Honduras
Para enviar dinero a la familia	13.80%	10.6%
Porque los ingresos aquí son muy bajos	12.30%	9.0%
Para mejorar su vida o la de sus hijos (familia)	14.70%	9.8%
Porque aquí no encontraba trabajo	9.40%	6.9%
Porque tiene familiares o amigos que le recomendaron	6.00%	6.5%
El costo de la vida es alto – aquí no se puede vivir	5.80%	6.3%
Por la situación causada por el COVID-19	3.60%	8.0%
Para estar con familiares	4.80%	2.2%
Para estudiar o para que sus hijos estudien en el extranjero	6.00%	6.3%
Porque ya casi no hay cosecha	4.50%	3.8%
Porque perdimos el terreno	3.20%	4.2%
Porque hay mucha violencia aquí	5.00%	7.7%
Porque me amenazaron a mi o a mi familia de extorsión	0.30%	4.6%
Por la situación política del país	4.80%	8.9%
Por los danos de la tormenta Eta	0.00%	5.1%
Otras (Especifique)	1.80%	0.00%
No sabe – No Responde	3.80%	0.00%

P15. En general, ¿usted cree que en la actualidad las cosas en este país van en la dirección correcta o en la dirección equivocada?

	Guatemala	Honduras
Correcta	39.60%	
Equivocada	60.4%	

P16. ¿Considera usted que su situación económica actual es mejor o peor que la de hace tres meses?

	Guatemala	Honduras
Mejor	1.90%	5.10%
Igual	33.60%	23.0%
Peor	63.00%	67.6%
No sabe – No Responde	1.60%	3.70%

P17. Para Usted ¿Cuál es el problema más urgente que enfrenta Guatemala hoy en día?

	Guatemala	Honduras
Corrupción	18.70%	31.0%
Coronavirus/COVID-19	33.60%	42.1%
La política	2.30%	6.1%
Desempleo	16.30%	5.9%
Crisis de economía	17.60%	6.6%
Inflación, altos precios	1.50%	2.1%
Los políticos	4.50%	0.8%
Mal gobierno	4.80%	3.4%
Falta de seguridad		0.1%
Derechos humanos	0.10%	0.1%
Delincuencia, crimen	0.50%	1.90%

P18. Anote el sexo del entrevistado

	Guatemala	Honduras
Masculino	42.20%	38.60%
Femenino	57.80%	62.30%

P19. ¿Cuál es el último nivel de escuela que usted aprobó?

	Guatemala	Honduras
Sin escolaridad	7.80%	1.40%
Primaria	30.00%	19.10%
Secundaria	39.60%	52.20%
Universidad	22.60%	27.30%

		Table N %
Ocupacion	.0	0.4%
	1.0	0.0%
	2.0	0.2%
	3.0	3.2%
	4.0	7.2%
	5.0	21.3%
	5.7	0.1%
	6.0	10.2%
	7.0	9.8%
	8.0	5.2%
	9.0	31.3%
	10.0	1.9%
11.0	9.1%	
¿Cuál es el último año de estudios que usted aprobó?	0	1.7%

	1	24.7%
	2	45.6%
	3	28.0%
¿Usted diría que el salario o ingreso total que su familia (hogar) recibe mensualmente les alcanza o no les alcanza para vivir?	1	15.4%
	2	17.8%
	3	38.4%
	4	23.9%
	5	4.5%

P20. ¿Cuánto percibe su familia aproximadamente por mes?

	Guatemala	Honduras
Promedio en quetzales en Guatemala y lempiras en Honduras	28.575	10.211
Promedio en dólares	\$373.51	\$419.06

P21. De acuerdo con su percepción, ¿Usted diría que el salario o ingreso total que su familia (hogar) recibe mensualmente les alcanza o no les alcanza para vivir?

	Guatemala	Honduras
No le alcanza para pagar ningún gasto	5.80%	20.20%
No le alcanza para pagar todos sus gastos	30.60%	15.30%
Le alcanza para pagar sus gastos básicos	50.10%	33.40%
Le alcanza para pagar sus gastos básicos y realizar otros gastos	12.0%	27.30%
Le alcanza para pagar todos sus gastos y ahorrar	1.50%	3.80%

P22. ¿Cuál es su ocupación?

	Guatemala	Honduras
Jefe/Director/Gerente del sector público – Gobierno	0.40%	0.10%
Jefe/Director/Gerente del sector privado	0.70%	0.2%
Vendedor, Trabajo de ventas	15.00%	3.2%
Empleado del sector público – Gobierno	6.40%	7.2%
Empleado del sector privado	8.40%	21.3%
Empresario (Dueño de tu propia empresa)	0.00%	0.1%
Estudiante	7.70%	10.2%
Desempleado	6.60%	9.8%
Ama de casa	9.30%	5.2%
Jubilado	6.50%	31.3%
Agricultor/Granjero	20.10%	9.10%
Construccion	3.60%	0.00%
Limpiar casas, empleo domestico	2.70%	0.00%
Maestro	1.60%	0.00%
Otro	10.80%	0.00%
No sabe – No Responde	0.30%	1.50%

## II. PREGUNTAS HECHAS SOLO PARA HONDURAS

P23A. ¿En qué forma tiene Ud. el carné de identificación?

	Honduras
Papel	66.9%
Digital/electrónico	9.70%
No tengo	18.30%

P23B. ¿En qué forma tiene Ud. la cuenta bancaria?

	Honduras
Libreta de ahorro	49.80%
Digital/electrónico	18.90%
No tengo	31.50%

P23C. ¿En qué forma tiene Ud. la billetera electrónica?

	Honduras
Digital en mi móvil	26.3%
No he bajado porque no tengo cuenta	17.9%
No he bajado	55.8%

P23D. ¿En qué forma tiene Ud. acceso a noticias o anuncios?

	Honduras
Papel	16.9%
Digital/electrónico	43.3%
No tengo	39.8%

P24. ¿De tener una billetera móvil, la usaría para \_\_\_? MARCAR TODAS LAS QUE APLICAN.

	Honduras
Pagar sus servicios [cable, teléfono, electricidad]	47.0%
Realizar compras en pulperías, supermercados, farmacias u otros establecimientos comerciales	46.6%
Recibir la remesa	6.4%

P25. ¿Cuánto confía en estos métodos de pago móvil?

	Honduras
Nada confió	10.60%
Confío poco	34.10%
Confío algo	41.40%
Mucho	9.00%

P5B. ¿En una escala de 1 (PÉSIMA) a 10 (EXCELENTE), como califica Ud. la labor del gobierno en materia de prevención y manejo de Eta?

	Honduras
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0	0.10%
1	62.70%
2	11.40%
3	8.40%
4	6.50%
5	6.40%
6	2.00%
7	0.80%
8	0.80%
9	0.10%
10	0.80%

P26. ¿Cómo le ha afectado la tormenta ETA?

	Honduras
Mi vivienda fue afectada parcialmente (daños materiales e incluso estructurales, no daños de inundar la casa).	32.3%
A un familiar o alguien muy cercano les afectó la vivienda.	29.0%
En mi casa o un familiar cercano sufrimos daños físicos (herida, muerte).	13.6%
Mi trabajo y/o el de un miembro del hogar se ha suspendido.	25.1%

¿Recibe Ud. remesas del extranjero?			
		No recibe	Recibe
P23B. ¿En qué forma tiene Ud. la cuenta bancaria? libreta	No	45.60%	52.30%
	Si	54.40%	47.70%
P23B. ¿En qué forma tiene Ud. la cuenta bancaria? digital	No	77.50%	85.80%
	Si	22.50%	14.20%
P23B.¿En qué forma tiene Ud. la cuenta bancaria? No tiene	No	68.40%	61.10%
	Si	31.60%	38.90%
P23C.. ¿En qué forma tiene Ud. la billetera electrónica? movil	No	80.90%	87.20%
	Si	19.10%	12.80%
P23C. . ¿En qué forma tiene Ud. la billetera electrónica? No tiene cuenta	No	90.60%	84.70%
	Si	9.40%	15.30%
P23C.. ¿En qué forma tiene Ud. la billetera electrónica? NO ha bajado	No	61.30%	72.20%
	Si	38.70%	27.80%
P24.¿De tener una billetera móvil, la usaría para pagar_	No	22.60%	24.70%
	Si	77.40%	75.30%
P24. ¿De tener una billetera móvil, la usaría para compra?	No	21.20%	28.80%
	Si	78.80%	71.20%
P24 ¿De tener una billetera móvil, la usaría para remesa?	No	93.40%	85.70%
	Si	6.60%	14.30%
¿Cuánto confía en estos métodos de pago móvil?	Nada confió	9.60%	7.50%
	Confío poco	39.00%	37.10%



	Confío algo	33.20%	43.30%
	Mucho	10.30%	8.60%
	99	8.00%	3.60%

## b. Metodología

Encuesta realizada en zonas de alta migración, 1032 personas en Guatemala (en cinco departamentos que captan el 48% de la migración y 48 municipios) en el mes de agosto 2020, y 879 en Honduras (en casi todos los departamentos y 110 municipios) en noviembre 2020. La muestra está basada en la distribución porcentual de la migración de estos países.

Las encuestas se realizaron de manera aleatoria via teléfono celular a los jefes de hogar. Se realizaron un total de 22 y 26 preguntas para cada nacionalidad respectivamente. El Dialogo Interamericano en Guatemala coordinó y ejecutó la encuesta en ese país, y Crea Honduras realizo el trabajo de campo en Honduras.

### Departamentos de encuestados en Guatemala

Guatemala	10.50%
Huehuetenango	26.80%
Quetzaltenango	25.90%
San Marcos	23.60%
Totonicapán	13.30%

People in Guatemala facing economic challenges tend to show a higher intention than with other circumstances. The percent of those with the intention to migrate is higher among those having lost work, savings, struggling to make ends meet for example. Receiving remittances (which for many experienced a drop) also are higher for Guatemala but not for Honduras.

Respondents in Honduras expressed a more complex set of responses. The percent of Hondurans with the intention to migrate is higher among those with economic hardship, but also with believing the economy is in worse shape, the country is going in the wrong direction, and that corruption is the main problem.

	Guatemala		Honduras	
	Does not intend	Intends	Does not Intend	Intends
Intention to migrate... And,				
Losing job or business is biggest problem is confronting during this pandemic	18.20%	27.4%***	17.60%	26.1%***
Having lost his/her savings	43.90%	53.2%**	36.10%	31.1%***
Has relatives abroad	36.30%	42.60%	50.50%	50.40%
Receives remittances	17.80%	29.2%***	31.20%	30.9%***
Country is going in the wrong direction	47.40%	54.60%	19.7%	27.3%***
Believes economic condition is worse	61.90%	61.90%	70.140%	64.2%***
Main country's problem is economic	31.90%	33.00%	8.80%	22.6%***
Main country's problem is corruption	16.90%	16.50%	38.10%	21.2%***

Main country's problem is COVID19	30.20%	32.00%	36.70%	36.90%
Under 30	32.40%	36.10%	39.5%	39.70%
University education	23.6%	13.5%	29.20%	26.50%
Average income	2896	2711	10280	9966
Cant make ends meet	34.20%	43.3%***	13.00%	18.80%
Has a secondary education	38.70%	45.40%	55.20%	47.1%***
Has a primary education	29.30%	34.00%	17.30%	22.20%***
Being a male	59%	50%*	37.3%	35.4%

Significance test: \*10%; \*\*5%; \*\*\*1%