

Processus de Rabat

Réunion thématique sur la séparation des familles et les personnes disparus dans le contexte de la migration : Prévention, recherche et réunification

20-21 Septembre 2023, Genève

Déclaration d'ouverture : Vincenzo Mascioli, Directeur des Affaires internationales, Secrétariat d'Etat aux Migration de la Confédération suisse

- Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, Chères et chers collègues, au nom de la CH **je vous souhaite la bienvenue** à cette réunion thématique organisée dans le cadre du Processus de Rabat.
- C'est **un honneur de vous accueillir** si nombreux pour discuter de la question de la séparation des familles et des personnes disparues dans le contexte de la migration.
- Mais je ne saurai commencer cette introduction sans tout d'abord saluer et remercier **les Hauts-représentants de la Gambie** pour assurer la co-présidence avec la CH de cette réunion thématique.
- La thématique que nous allons discuter dans les prochains deux jours est **une tragédie humaine** et complexe en même temps. Le « [Projet Migrants Disparus](#) " de l'OIM (soutenu par la Suisse) a dénombré presque **60 000 morts et disparus** sur les routes migratoires mondiales depuis 2014 - dont un cinquième en Afrique et presque la moitié dans la Méditerranée. Et nous savons qu'il ne s'agit que de la partie visible de l'iceberg.
- Pour **les proches des personnes disparues**, les conséquences juridiques, sociales et psychologiques peuvent être si profondes que la poursuite ou la reconstruction de leur vie après un tel événement est sérieusement compromise, voire impossible.
- Les répercussions des disparitions peuvent **déstabiliser les communautés**, compromettre les perspectives à long terme des efforts de paix, marginaliser les individus et devenir à leur tour un **facteur de migration forcée**.
- Les gouvernements de tous les continents ont un **intérêt commun, un devoir moral et une obligation d'agir**, parce qu'il s'agit d'une **question qui nous concerne tous**



- En 2021, en tant que **pays référents pour le domaine 3, protection et asile**, la Suisse et le Chad ont introduit le sujet pour la première fois dans le processus de Rabat lors de la table ronde sur la protection et l'asile, qui s'est également tenue ici à Genève.
- A l'initiative de la Suisse et lors de la **sixième conférence ministérielle de Cadix en 2022**, les 57 pays partenaires du Processus de Rabat ont accepté **d'inclure les questions de séparation familiale et de migrants disparus** dans leur programme de coopération pluriannuel au titre de l'objectif 5b du **Plan d'action de Cadix**.
- Nous tous sommes maintenant appelé par **les actions 16 et 17** du Plan d'action de Cadix de prendre des mesures pour éviter la séparation des familles et la disparition des migrants, ainsi que de travailler à la recherche des personnes disparues et à la réunification.
- La Suisse est convaincue de la **nécessité d'améliorer la réponse aux disparitions dans le contexte de la migration**. Mon pays aborde régulièrement la question des personnes disparues, y compris dans le contexte de la migration, dans le cadre d'échanges bilatéraux et multilatéraux. Nous coopérons également avec des organisations spécialisées et les soutenons afin de promouvoir le développement de solutions.
- **Au niveau national** la Croix-Rouge suisse a créé **un groupe de travail informel** sur les migrants disparus. Parmi les membres de ce groupe de travail figurent la Police fédérale suisse, le Secrétariat d'État aux migrations et le Département des Affaires étrangères. Nous aurons l'occasion d'en savoir plus à ce sujet plus tard dans la journée.
- Au cours des deux prochains jours, nous allons discuter **des défis multiples** autour de la prévention des disparitions, de la recherche et l'identification des migrants disparus ou morts ainsi que du soutien offert à leurs familles. Nous allons découvrir des **outils existants et des bonnes pratiques** afin **d'améliorer la coopération internationale**.
- Une attention particulière est accordée au groupe de migrants le plus vulnérable, les **mineurs séparés ou non accompagnés** et à la question de la détermination et la mise en œuvre de leur intérêt souverain.
- Enfin, nous visiterons le **musée du Comité Internationale de la Croix Rouge CICR**, ce qui nous permettra d'aborder le sujet sous l'angle historique et d'en apprendre davantage sur le travail de **l'Agence centrale de**



recherches du CICR.

- Il me reste à vous souhaiter des **discussions et échanges constructifs, instructifs et concrets** sur un sujet si important qui sont les migrants disparus.
- A cet égard, je **remercie tous les experts et spécialistes** qui ont accepté de participer à cette rencontre et de partager leur expertise.
- Je tiens tout particulièrement à **remercier à ICMPD, le Secrétariat** du Processus de Rabat, **et au CICR** pour leur énorme soutien lors des préparatifs ainsi qu'à toutes les autres organisations spécialisées comme l'OIM, le UNHCR, l'UNICEF et l'Equipo Argentina de Antropologia Forense.
- Excellences, Mesdames et Messieurs, chères et chers collègues, je ne saurai terminer sans **remercier le Comité de Pilotage** du Processus de Rabat pour **sa confiance accordée à la Suisse et à la Gambie**.
- Et saluer **le Maroc et son Haut-représentant** qui assure la présidence du Processus de Rabat.
- Je vous remercie et vous souhaite un agréable séjour à Genève.

Ambassador Vincenzo Mascioli, Director of International Affairs, State Secretariat for Migration
Ambassador Thomas Wagner, Deputy Permanent Observer of the European Union (EU) to the
United Nations in Geneva

Monica Zanette, Head of Pan African initiatives, International Centre for Migration Policy
Development (ICMPD)

Fellow delegates, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

My delegation, on behalf of the government and people of The Gambia is exceedingly honoured and profoundly grateful to be invited by the government of Switzerland to Co-Chair this landmark thematic meeting - on separation of families and missing persons in the context of migration: prevention, tracing and reunification. This theme is close to our hearts and such a regional dialogue at this time and place cannot be overemphasized.

I want to thank the government of Switzerland for their foresight in hosting this thematic meeting and for also being a reference country for domain 3 of the Cadiz Action Plan. Our deep appreciation goes to the Rabat Process Secretariat (ICMPD) for making this meeting possible and successful. My delegation wishes to acknowledge the participation and efforts of all partner countries of the Rabat Process, the European Union, the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the United Nations Children's Fund for your immense and valuable contributions towards this thematic meeting.

Excellencies, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, every day, thousands await news of loved ones gone missing during conflict, disasters or migration. Thousands of migrants go missing every year. They disappear on precarious journeys along migratory routes or after arrival in countries of destination.

An unfortunate situation that has devastated an entire community in The Gambia is the missing boat that left the shores of a coastal village called Gunjur on 8th November 2021. The boat, carrying 160 migrants from Senegal, picked 39 youth from Gunjur and left for the Mediterranean. The boat got missing and until today, their whereabouts cannot be traced or established.

Mr Pateh Sowe, father to Buba Sowe came to my office two years ago, that his son Buba called him while boarding a boat from Libya in 2020 that they were departing for Europe and since then he never heard from him.

Quoting two parents from an ICRC publication....a parent from Cameroon was quoted saying "The most difficult, is to live without news about my son. I often think about what happened to him, what has become of him. Every night I think of him and I cry".

Another parent from Nigeria is quoted saying "I just want to be certain that he is dead to be able to continue my life. No need for getting the body back or knowing where he is buried".

Ladies and gentlemen, the need for an effective response to this tragedy- for respect of relevant domestic and international legal obligations and recognition of the rights of missing migrants and their families and the challenges they face has been widely and repeatedly acknowledged at regional and global levels.

In 2018, in the Global Compact for Migration, about 164 UN member states committed themselves to engage in coordinated international efforts on missing migrants to cooperate in the standard collection and exchange of relevant information and to identify those who have died or gone missing, and to facilitate communication with affected families...GCM Objective 8.

The issue of missing persons and their families is addressed in various bodies of law, but their implementation is often challenging or lacking. Many people continue to go missing every day, the fate and whereabouts of those already missing often remain without clarification, and families are not always attended to or heard. In addition to missing persons themselves, their families bear the brunt of the trauma and in some instances an entire community.

According to the ICRC, there is no legal definition of a missing person under international law. However, it is understood that a missing person is one whose whereabouts are unknown to his/her relatives and/or who, on the basis of reliable information, has been reported missing in accordance with national legislation in connection with an international or non -international armed conflict, other situations of violence, disasters and any other situation like international migration that may require the intervention of a competent state authority.

Ladies and gentlemen, through coordinated action, governments can ensure family links are preserved or re-established and reduce the impact on society. Efforts to address the plight of missing persons and their families, particularly through the adoption of relevant regional and national legal and policy frameworks cannot be overemphasized.

While acknowledging that states must be at the centre of any effort, given their unique responsibilities and resources, a truly effective response requires a multi-stakeholder approach, collaboration among a much broader range of actors.

In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, we are gathered here today to reflect and strategize procedures, mechanisms and frameworks in a bid to committing ourselves to the principles and objectives of the GCM, the Cadiz Action Plan and existing best practices and policies in tracing the families of separated migrants and searching for missing migrants while ensuring measures that would prevent people from going missing. This requires a coordination mechanism for sharing and disseminating information, ensuring synergy and complementarity, participation, involvement and collaboration of all relevant authorities and stakeholders, locally, regionally and globally.

**Allocution au nom de la Présidence Marocaine du Processus de Rabat à l'occasion
de la Réunion thématique « la séparation des familles et les personnes disparues
dans le contexte de la migration : prévention, recherche et réunification »
Genève, les 20 et 21 septembre 2023**

- Madame Gisela Schlupe, Maitresse de cérémonie, Conseillère Politique au Secrétariat d'Etat aux Migrations,
- Monsieur l'Ambassadeur Vincenzo Mascioli , Directeur des Affaires Internationales au Secrétariat d'Etat aux Migrations , co-président de la Réunion thématique
- Monsieur Musa Camara , Directeur de la Diaspora au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères , de la Coopération Internationale et des Gambiens à l'Etranger, co-président de la réunion
- Monsieur l'Ambassadeur Thomas Wagner, Représentant permanent adjoint, Délégation de l'UE auprès de l'ONU et d'autres organisations internationales à Genève.
- Madame Monica Zanette, Responsable des Initiatives panafricaines, Centre international pour le développement des politiques migratoires (ICMPD) ;
- Mesdames et Messieurs les chefs des délégations des pays membres et des Organisations Internationales membres observateurs du Processus de Rabat
- Mesdames et Messieurs les membres du Secrétariat du Processus de Rabat

**Excellences ;
Mesdames et Messieurs**

C'est un grand honneur pour moi d'intervenir au nom de la présidence marocaine du Dialogue Euro-Africain sur la Migration et le Développement, Processus de Rabat, et au nom de la délégation marocaine qui prend part aujourd'hui et demain aux travaux de cette importante réunion thématique sur « **la séparation des familles et les personnes disparues dans le contexte de la migration : prévention, recherche et réunification** »

Je tiens à remercier chaleureusement la Suisse, pays hôte et la Gambie pour leur coprésidence de cette réunion et le choix de sa thématique, convenue parmi les activités 2023 sous le mandat de la présidence marocaine du Processus de Rabat.

Nos chaleureux remerciements s'adressent également au Secrétariat du Processus pour tous les efforts louables et salués et leur coordination pour la tenue de cette réunion et sa réussite.

Mesdames et Messieurs

Face aux divers défis qui se sont accentués ces dernières années, liés à la migration irrégulière au long des routes migratoires, figure la question des migrants disparus de toutes catégories d'âges et notamment les mineurs non accompagnés qui perdent le contact avec leurs familles et leurs communautés d'origine. Les migrants traversent dans la majorité du temps dans la discrétion et l'anonymat de peur de leur refoulement , sans enregistrement des données sur leurs identités et parfois sous des identités irréelles et des documents erronés , ce qui complique les aspects liés à la recherche et l'identification en cas de disparition , devant le manque de données retraçant l'itinéraire du migrant disparu et rendant la tâche de leur familles difficile pour les retrouver et renouer les liens avec elles .

Cette question épineuse est devenue une préoccupation dans le contexte des migrations et des déplacements forcés, nécessitant non seulement des solutions nationales, mais aussi une coopération régionale et transrégionale le long des itinéraires migratoires, basée sur la solidarité et le développement des partenariats interétatiques en matière de gouvernance des flux migratoires.

Etant en phase avec les dispositions du domaine 3 du Plan d'action pluriannuel adopté Cadix en 2022, qui traite de la protection et de l'asile, et notamment l'objectif 5b, qui consiste à "promouvoir des actions visant à respecter la dignité et les droits de l'homme des migrants et des personnes ayant besoin de protection" , la présente réunion focalisant sur cette thématique, reflète cette dynamique évolutive dans la mise en œuvre de l'actuel plan d'action du Processus de Rabat qui inclut cette thématique parmi les volets des activités de l'année en cours et par conséquent se veut une plateforme de réflexion et d'échange sur cette question humanitaire du traitement de la prévention , la recherche et la réunification des migrants disparus et la réunification avec leurs familles .

Il va sans dire que ce phénomène , étant un défi transrégional , nécessite la conjugaison des efforts de tous les pays partenaires dans l'objectif commun de développer des partenariats et des mécanismes de collaboration entre tous les intervenants , y compris les organisations partenaires spécialisées , à l'instar du CICR , ICMPD, IOM, HCR, l'ICMP (Commission Internationale pour les Personnes disparues) et bien d'autres, pour renforcer la coopération transfrontalière en la matière et pour instaurer une approche permettant d'apporter des réponses bilatérales et multilatérales à la question de la séparation des familles et des personnes disparues dans le contexte de la migration.

C'est dans un esprit d'enrichissement de notre dialogue et de capitaliser sur le progrès réalisé par le passé que la présidence marocaine estime que nos échanges dans la cadre de la présente réunion vont, nul doute, explorer les différents volets inscrits à l'ordre du jour, dans le cadre des cinq sessions qui constituent notre réunion pour définir les perspectives de collaboration future pour prévenir la disparition des migrants, y compris les mineurs non accompagnés disparus.

Les débats et les conclusions attendus vont ajouter, comme à l'accoutumé qui caractérise notre dialogue, dans un esprit de dialogue, de concertation et de responsabilité partagée, à l'actif et au bilan de notre dialogue dans le cadre de cette plateforme du Processus de Rabat qui n'a cessé de cumuler depuis son fondement en 2006 à Rabat, une évolution marquée par la constance et la continuité.

En vous souhaitant de riches débats et échanges lors de cette réunion, je vous réitère les meilleurs souhaits de plein succès dans nos travaux et je tiens à exprimer encore une fois mes meilleurs remerciements à nos amis suisses pour l'accueil chaleureux et l'hospitalité ainsi que pour l'initiative d'abriter cette réunion thématique qui dénote de la contribution louable de la Suisse à l'enrichissement de la valeur ajoutée de notre dialogue.

Merci



**European Union - Statement of Deputy Permanent Representative/
Ambassador H.E. Thomas Wagner**

**RABAT PROCESS THEMATIC MEETING ON SEPARATION OF FAMILIES AND MISSING
PERSONS IN THE CONTEXT OF MIGRATION: PREVENTION, TRACING AND
REUNIFICATION
21-22 SEPTEMBER**

Chair, Excellences and Distinguished Delegates,

I am pleased to take part in this thematic meeting of the Euro-African Dialogue on Migration and Development today in Geneva.

Thank the Swiss and Gambians authorities for the organization of this event and their hospitality – as well as Morocco for their highly successful Presidency.

In view of the latest events on the Mediterranean routes, this meeting is paramount to further discuss cooperation and concrete avenues for collaboration in the prevention and resolution of cases of family separation and missing migrants.

As we know, migrants and refugees trying to reach Europe embark on life-threatening journeys as smugglers use increasingly dangerous tactics to cross the Mediterranean. These have resulted in tragic events with the loss of lives.

On both sides of the Mediterranean, national authorities, international Organizations, NGOs and civilians are implementing strategies and operations to increase protection and fight as well against smuggling and trafficking of migrants.

For instance, since 2015, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex) currently deploys three operations in the Mediterranean to rescue migrants at risk and fight migrant smuggling. These efforts have resulted in saving more than **629 000 lives** since 2015.

At the same time, the EU, its member states and African partners are working together on cracking down **criminal networks**. EU Action, plans along the Mediterranean routes are being implemented supported by EU measures and funding; **Anti-smuggling Operational Partnerships** have been launched and are being implemented on both sides of the Mediterranean; and further cooperation to fight against trafficking of human beings and smuggling of migrants are implemented with EU and African Member states, Europol and Frontex, while ensuring the protection of migrants and refugees and respect of human rights along the routes.

Despite all our efforts, more than 25 000 people have died or are missing in the Mediterranean and Atlantic since 2015 in their attempt to reach Europe - leaving families in despair and many others have been separated.

In that regard, today, discussing cooperation mechanisms at national and transnational levels as well as good practices to prevent migrants from

going missing, trace missing migrants and cooperate with the families left behind is paramount to safeguard a human approach at the center of our migration governance.

Opening remarks for the Thematic Meeting

**“Separation of families and missing persons in the context of migration:
prevention, tracing and reunification”**

20-21 September 2023, Geneva

Distinguished Delegates, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the ICMPD, I am very honoured to be present today in Geneva on the occasion of this Thematic Meeting of the Rabat Process on separation of families and missing persons in the context of migration.

First of all, I would like to warmly thank our Swiss hosts for welcoming us in this beautiful city of Geneva and for their initiative to organise this thematic meeting, as well as the Gambia for co-chairing it. Both countries have been working hard for many weeks to put together, with the support of the Rabat Process Secretariat, a rich programme which, I am sure, will lead to fruitful discussions over the next two days.

For the last 30 years, ICMPD has supported several intergovernmental migration dialogues in their efforts to develop better and more sustainable approaches to migration, displacement and asylum. From this experience, we know that migration dialogues can be a channel to vehicle new topics either from similar perspective or from very different experiences.

It is the very first time that the issue of separation of families and missing persons is addressed within the Rabat Process. And I wish to particularly thank Switzerland and

the Gambia, as well as the Moroccan Chair of the Dialogue, for bringing this important topic to the table.

The issue of separation of families and missing persons is an integral part of the Rabat Process Cadiz Action Plan in its objective Objective 5b that aims to “Promote actions to respect the dignity and the human rights of migrants and persons in need of protection.”

According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), more than half of the 55,000 deaths documented on global migration routes since 2014 have occurred within or en route to Europe . Governments and other stakeholders have progressively begun to recognize the need to address this human tragedy, which requires not only national solutions but also regional and transregional cooperation along migratory routes. In this respect, the Rabat Process provides a unique and unprecedented platform for dialogue and joint initiative of States in Africa and Europe to further address this human tragedy by reinforcing their cooperation, developing common approaches and sharing data and good practices with a view to contribute to evidence-based policies and programming that could reduce risks and save lives.

Today and tomorrow’s meeting provides the ideal platform to discuss and bridge different viewpoints and positions. The expert panel discussions and working groups will provide us all with solid grounds for concrete recommendations and actionable next steps. This thematic meeting will indeed provide an opportunity to discuss cooperation mechanisms at national and transnational levels as well as good practices to prevent migrants from going missing, trace missing migrants and cooperate with the families left behind. A spotlight will be put on best interest determination procedures of unaccompanied or separate minors.

In conclusion, I would like to thank and praise the special efforts deployed by the State Secretariat for Migration of Switzerland and the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs for the excellent coordination they had with the Rabat Process Secretariat to organise this event.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Secretariat team and the ICMPD for their unceasing efforts to keep these Dialogues alive and evolving, and to extend my thanks to the European Commission for its support without which, none of this would be possible.

Thank you all for being here today, I am sure that we will learn a lot over the next two days and I wish all of you an interesting and inspiring meeting.

Thank you very much.

Missing Migrants Project

Documenting deaths and disappearances
during migration



Missing Migrants Project

- Open-access global database documenting deaths & disappearances during migration
- Qualitative **research** component on families of missing migrants
- Extensive **data analysis** and thematic **awareness-raising** in briefings and longer reports
- Data and reports can be downloaded from our website:
missingmigrants.iom.int



58,447
MISSING MIGRANTS SINCE 2014

Why collect data on missing migrants?

Advocacy

- Countering the **invisibility** of people who die during migration and of their families

Operational planning

- Information on specific **risks en route**
- Providing information to **family members** who place tracing requests

Policy

- **SDG 10.7:** “Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people”
 - MMP data is used as **SDG indicator 10.7.3**
- **GCM Objective 8:** “Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants”



Defining 'missing migrant' in MMP

What is included in MMP?

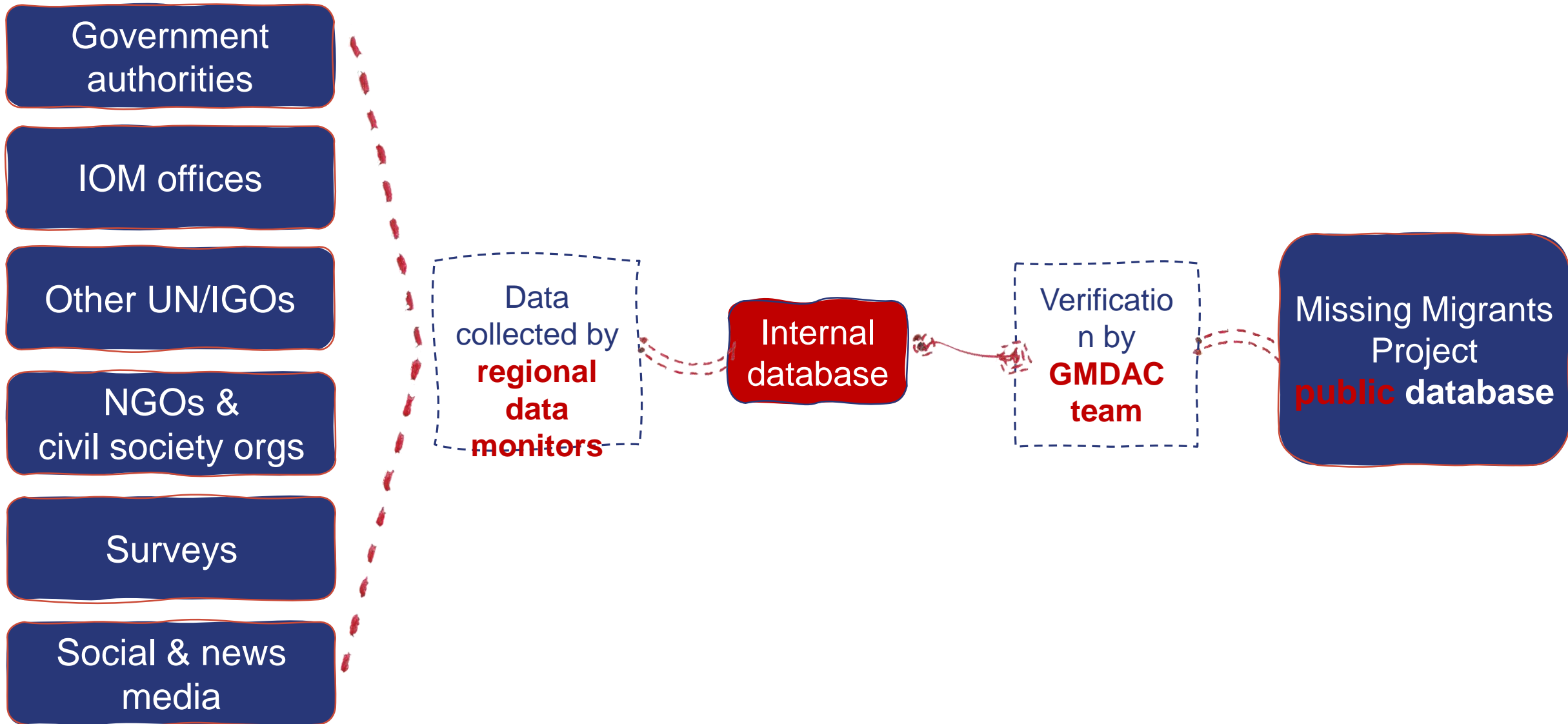
- **Deaths** at the external borders of states, or in the process of migration towards an international destination
- **Disappearances** during migration in which a person is **presumed dead**
- **Rationale**: approach identifies risks linked to irregular migration journeys



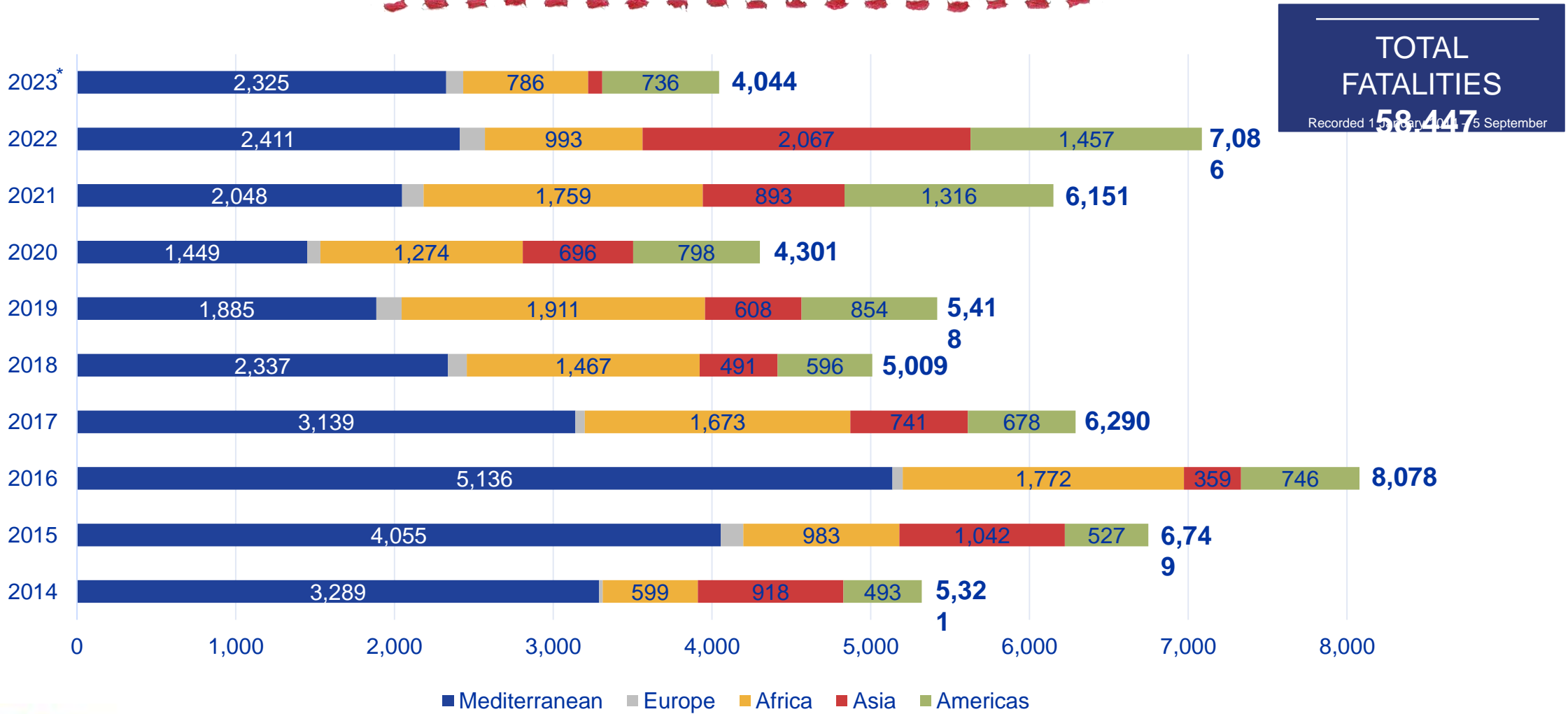
What is excluded from MMP?

- Deaths in immigration **detention** facilities and reception centres
- Deaths related to an individual's irregular status while **residing** in a foreign country (e.g. resulting from labour exploitation)
- Deaths related to **internal** displacement
- **Missing persons reports** when there is no presumption of death

Methodology: 6 main sources of data

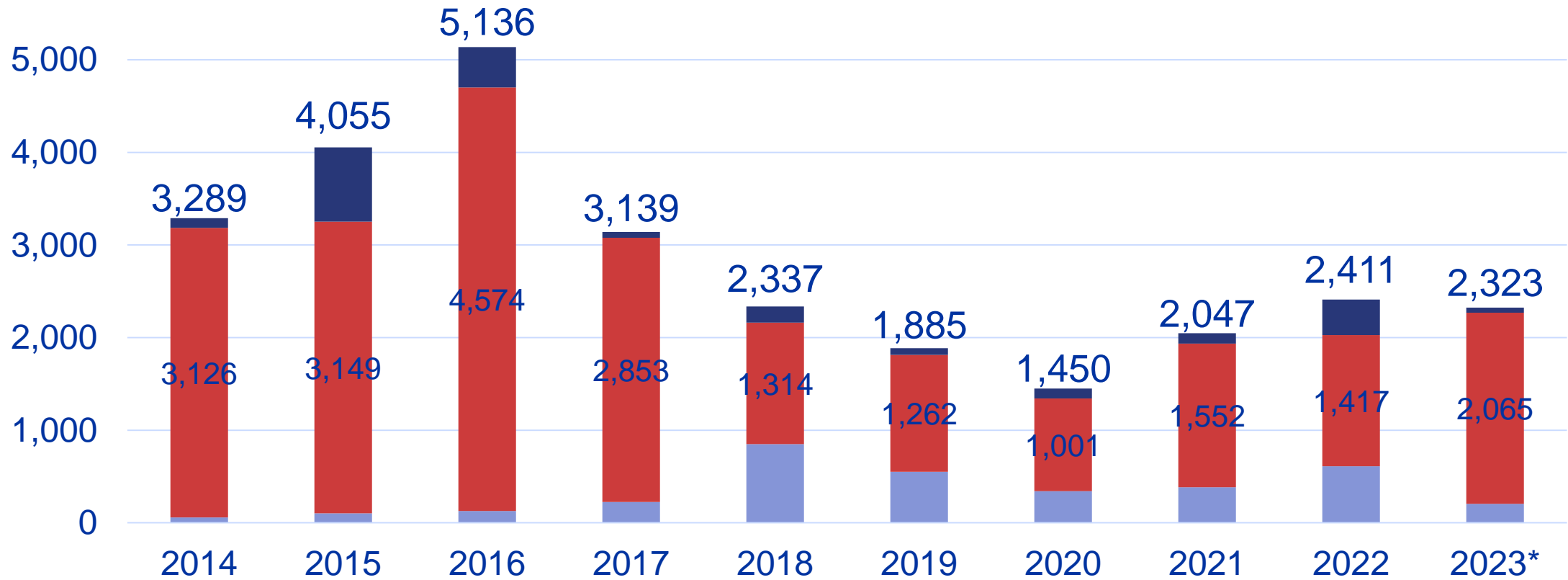


Deaths and disappearances recorded on migratory routes worldwide



TOTAL FATALITIES
58,447
Recorded 1 January 2014 to 5 September 2023

Deaths & disappearances in the Mediterranean

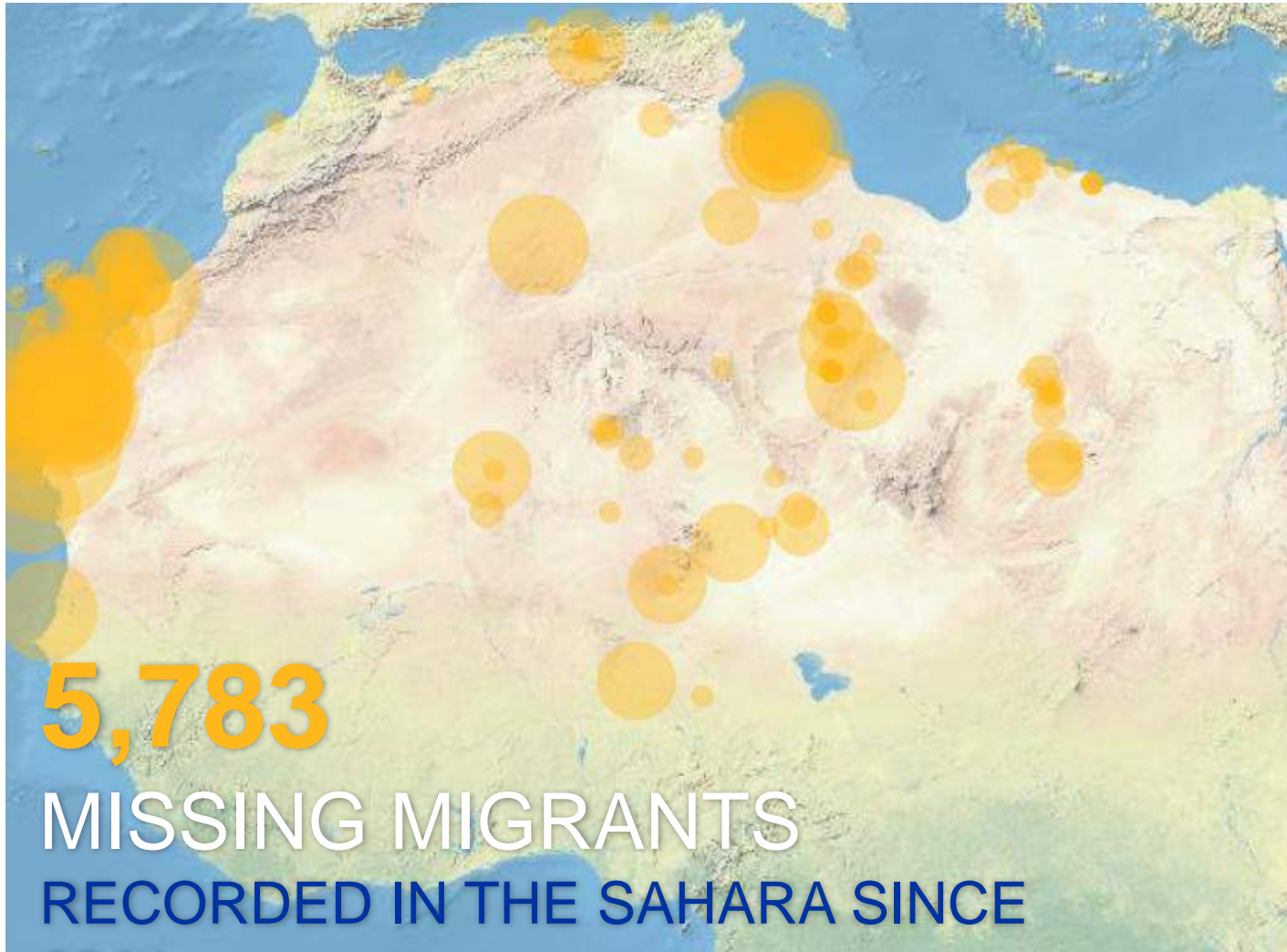


■ Western Mediterranean

■ Central Mediterranean

■ Eastern Mediterranean

Deaths & disappearances in the Sahara

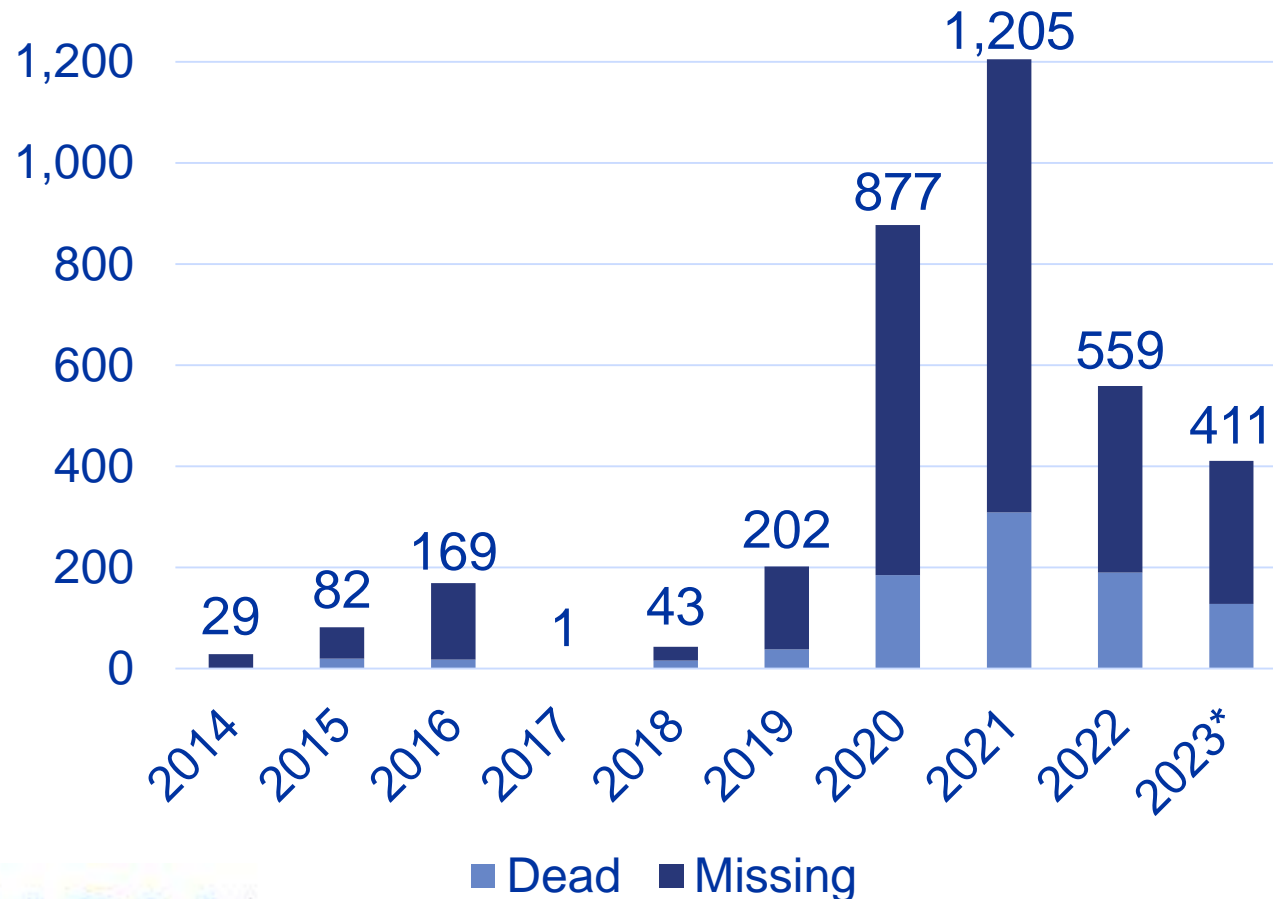


3 in 4 deaths recorded by IOM linked to **inherent risks** of desert crossing:

- Dehydration / starvation (36%)
- Sickness / lack of access to health care (31%)
- Exposure (9%)

Remote nature of Sahara means that **data are extremely scarce**

Deaths & disappearances en route to the Canary Islands

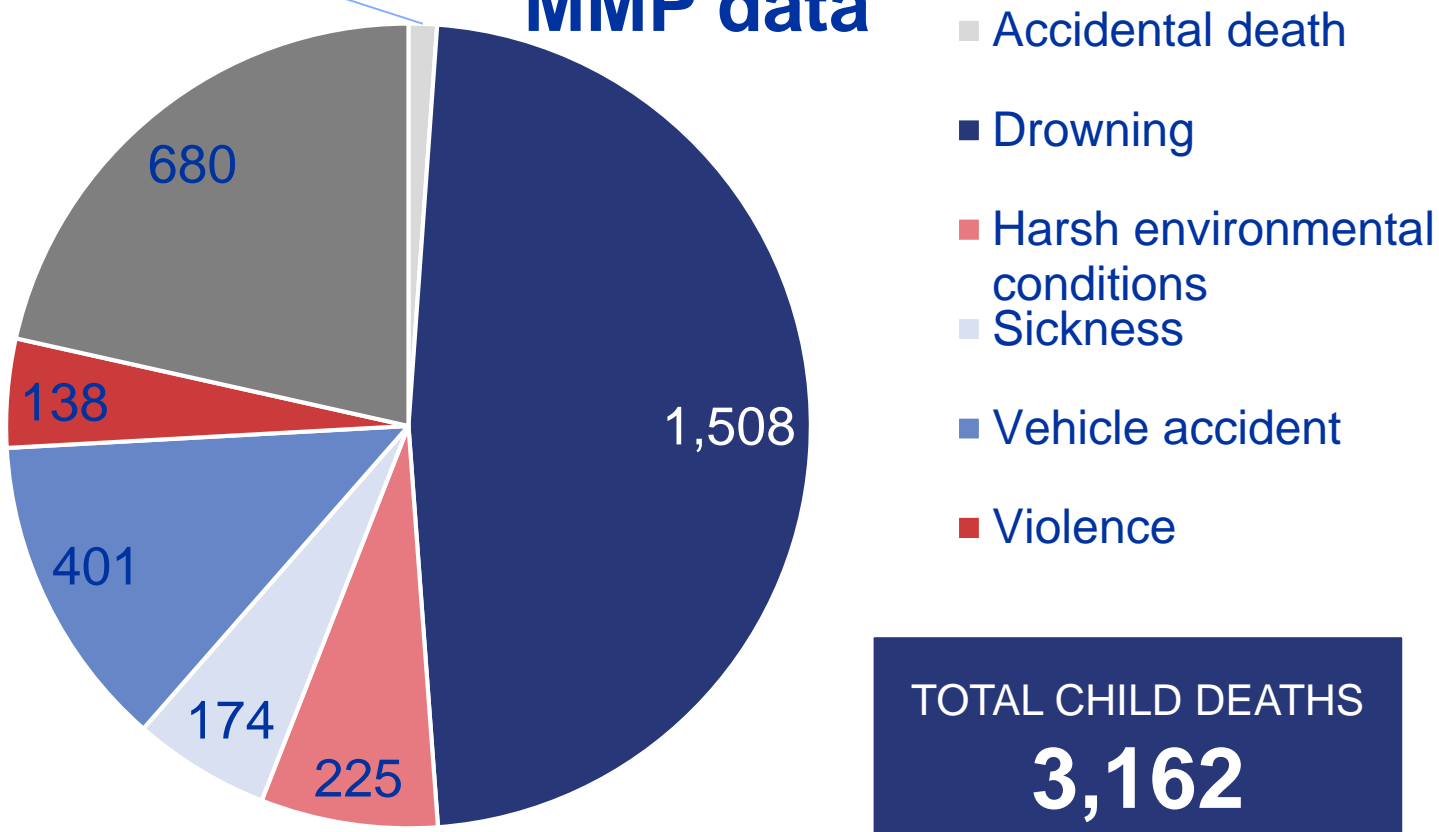


More than **3,500** deaths and disappearances recorded on the sea route from West & North Africa to Spain's Canary Islands

- Largest proportion of **disappearances** on any migration route in MMP records
- Many more "**invisible shipwrecks**" reported than recorded

Deaths & disappearances of migrant children

Causes of deaths of children in MMP data



TOTAL CHILD DEATHS
3,162

- 25% of incidents in MMP database have **no data on age or gender**
- Most often the case in **mass casualty events** where many go missing
- More than 26,000 people for whom **no identifying information** is known

Missing data

Missing migrants

- Many deaths go unrecorded on and beyond migration routes
- Many more migrants go missing (and are not presumed dead)

Missing families

- Tens of thousands of families of the missing must search endlessly for lost loved ones

Missing communities

- Countless communities directly impacted by huge burden of recovering remains, conducting SAR, and coping with the aftermath of these tragedies

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Website: missingmigrants.iom.int



**MISSING
MIGRANTS
PROJECT**

**Separated, Missing
and Dead Migrants:**

**Global and regional
challenges and successful
responses**



A global challenge



Progress is underway:

- GCM Objective 8 on *Saving Lives and Missing Migrants* provides comprehensive commitments but is also among least implemented GCM objectives.
- Upcoming Recommendations of UN Secretary-General
- Growing body of practices and technical guidance (ICRC, IOM, EAAF, others)

Need operationalization along migratory routes



Evolution of regional initiatives

2021:

ACHPR resolution 486

2022:

Regional Conference on Migration (Americas) regional recommendations

ACHPR and ICRC convened Tunis meeting of 12 North and West African Countries

Council of Europe appoints special rapporteur to work on a report and a resolution on missing migrants

African Union High level meeting

Rabat Process: Cadiz Action Plan

2023:

ECOWAS initiative for Strategic Action Plan

Rabat Process GVA meeting



Prevention

Operational

- Search and rescue
- Access to communication and humanitarian assistance
- Avoid family separation at borders
- Avoid pushbacks, and respect non-refoulement

Policy

- prohibition of non-refoulement & collective expulsions
- Avoid systematic detention; register and enable consular/family contact for detainees
- Review harmful laws, policies and practices



A multi-stakeholder approach

- States
- Families
- NGOs and civil society actors
- Regional and sub-regional organizations
- International Organizations

Search: national level actions

- Case registration & collection of information from families and co-travellers. Designation of focal points.
- Recovery, documentation and identification of deceased persons
- Mapping and accessing information sources: e.g. immigration databases, detention registers
- Information harmonisation and centralisation: standardised forms, central registers or databases
- National mechanism: coordinating the work of relevant authorities
- => national policy?

Search: transnational actions

What kind of information are we exchanging and how is formatted?

Personal information,
circumstances of disappearance.
DNA, finger prints,
Standardized forms

How is information exchanged and through what channels?

Consular
Police
Intra-institutional
3rd parties

On what basis does cooperation take place?

Ad hoc
Systematic

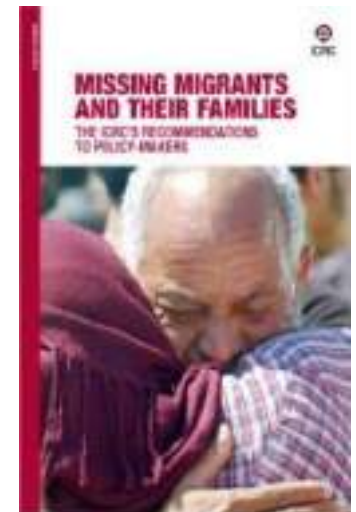


Families

- Impact :
 - Psychosocial
 - Economic
 - Legal: loss of control over property, finances, even children.
 - Stigma
 - All consuming search
 - Afraid to interact with authorities.
- Need for acknowledgement and destigmatisation
- Need for certificates of absence.
- Allow families to register cases without fear of consequence.
- Recognise role of civil society organisations as intermediaries whom families trust.



ICRC Resources



Merci!
Thank you!



THE BORDER PROJECT

Towards an Exchange Regional Mechanism on missing migrants
CA- Mexico- US corridor



MISSING MIGRANTS

- As of mid-2020, the number of international migrants worldwide stood at 280.6 million (or 3.6 percent of the world's population), according to the most recent UN OIM.
- It has increased over the past five decades. It was around 150 millions in 1990.
- Poverty, security, climate change.
- Many of them traveled Irregularly
- Through dangerous clandestine routes
- Subject to deserts, rivers, traffickers and organized crime
- Some of them go missing and/or died before reaching their destination



BACKGROUND OF BORDER PROJECT: CIUDAD JUÁREZ, CHIHUAHUA

- 2004-2009: EAAF worked in Mexican border city of Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua investigating feminicides cases on a Mexico-US border
- Results: 33 identifications, 50 unidentified remains, 40 women still missing.



THE BORDER PROJECT 2009

- Aims to collaborate in the development of a regional forensic mechanism to exchange information on missing migrants and unidentified remains in the Central America-Mexico-United States of America migrant corridor.
- **Creating**
 - multistakeholder, forensic data banks on missing migrants,
 - in communities of origin.
 - Gov and non Gov actor working together
 - as the most efficient, dynamic and transparent effort
- To Collect and centralize forensic data on missing migrants in **countries and communities of origin and exchange it** with crucial morgues on the migrant routes.
- The ultimate goal is to significantly improve the assistance to families of missing migrants in their search among unidentified remains, regarding their right to truth and justice.
- Work on the improvement and adoption of good forensic practices in the identification of remains for cases specific to missing migrants.
- Its a forensic search project; searching them alive need to continue at the same time through other mechanisms.



Border project 3 phases

- 1.- DIAGNOSTICS, 2009-2010.
- 2.- DATA COLLECTION Y CENTRALIZATION
Since 2010. Collection, centralization and improving the quantity and quality of the forensic information of the missing migrants.
- 3.-DATA EXCHANGE since 2010. expanding the crossing of missing migrants forensic data with PM information of unidentified remains



PHASE I. ASSESSMENT 2009

- EAAF conducted a nine-month assessment (2009-2010), to better understand the problems at stake, as well as how forensic science could improve its work on the missing migrant problem.
- Among the main issues found during this assessment process were:
 - Overall **fragmentation** of information (on both Missing Migrants and Unidentified remains).
 - Disparity of forensic services quality.
 - Seldom use of DNA for identification purposes.
 - **Multiplicity of partial databases** / database content and completeness issues.
 - **Lack of a regional, coordinated forensic system** to exchange information on a massive scale concerning these cases
 - Only one country with national database - USA-but not allowing foreign cases without some requirements
 - Many actors; efforts not connected
 - Families with no explanation about how their loved ones have been ID.

Where are the remains that may belong to of Missing migrants?

Among recovered but unidentified or unclaimed remains

- In morgues and cemeteries along the migrant corridor mostly in Mexico and EEUU.
- Some of these remains have a DNA profiles; some don't

In Unknown places not yet recovered

- Clandestine graves, typically in Mexico
- In remote areas of the Sonora desert in Arizona or in private land in Texas
- Or in the Darien gap between Colombia and Panama

Migrant Routes

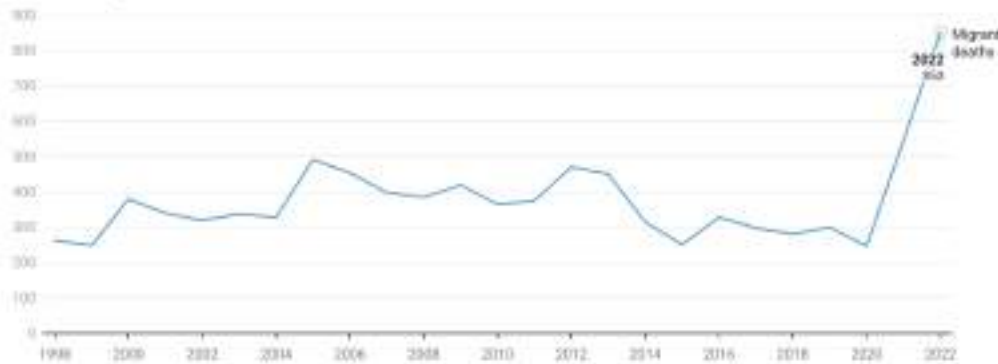


CENTRAL AMERICA- MEXICO- US CORRIDOR

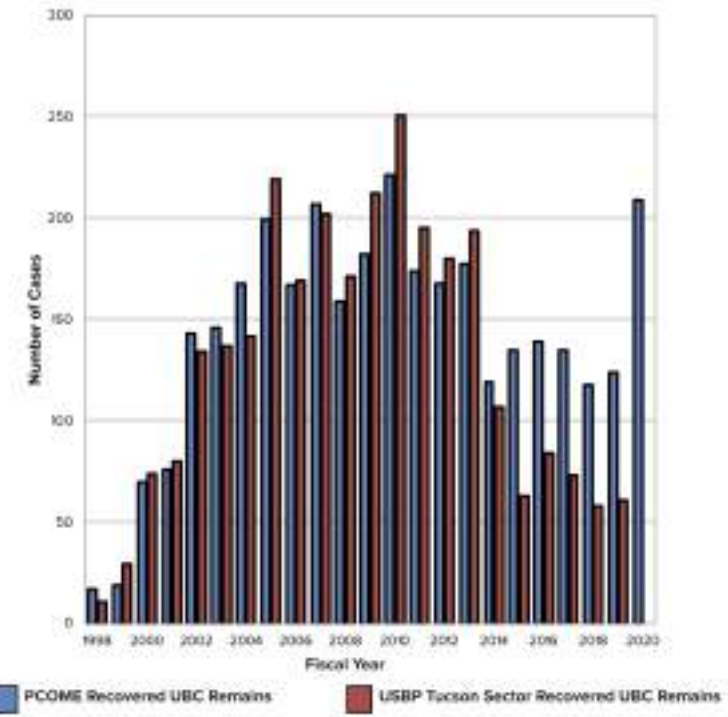
- Unclear and uncomplete regional or per country stats for missing migrants and of remains that may belong to them.
- US- Mexico Border
 - USA Border Patrol 1998- 2022 remains found in South Border that may belong to migrants of at least **8,050 people**

Migrant deaths recorded by U.S. Border Patrol

Between fiscal years 1998 and 2022.

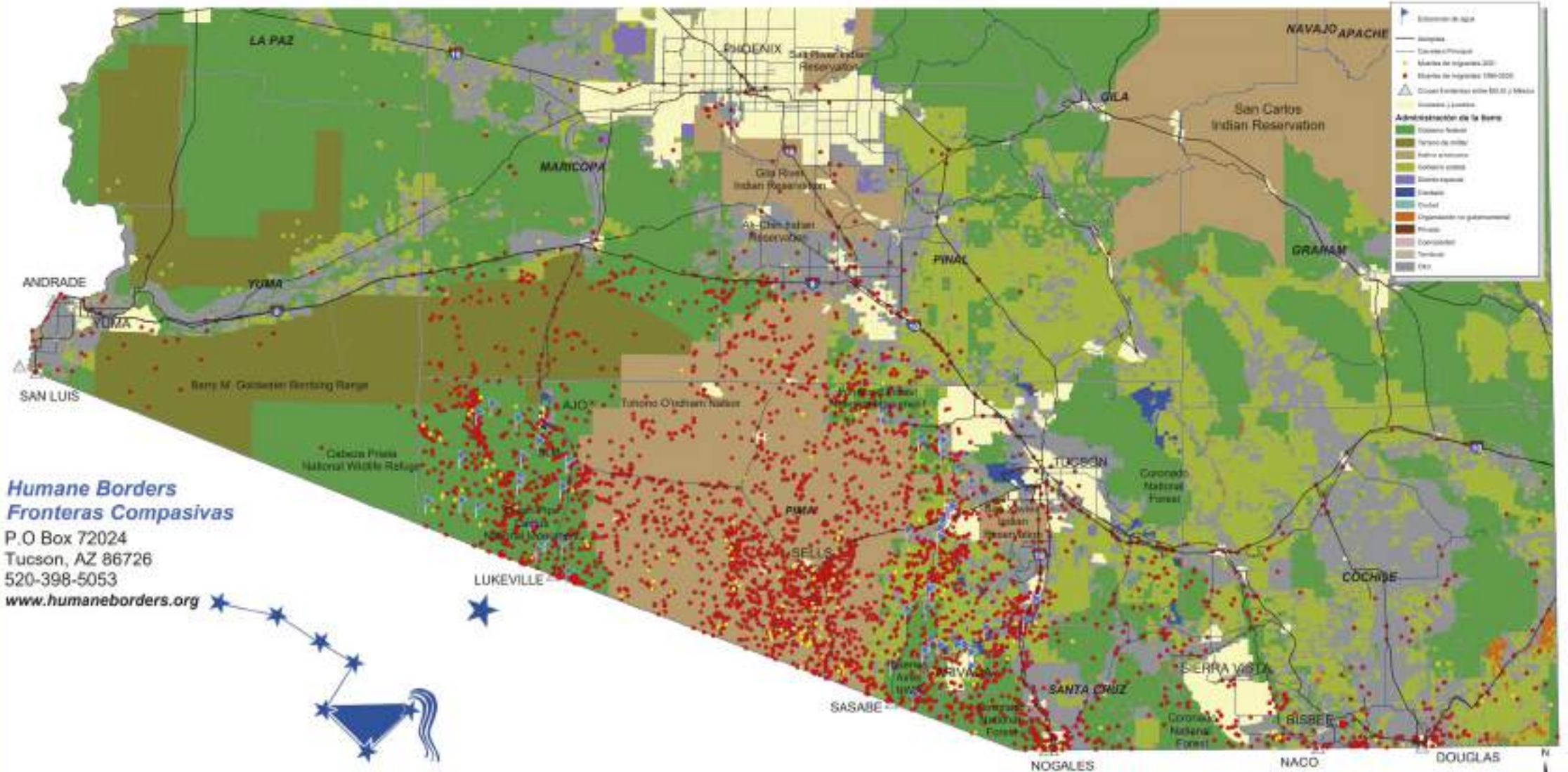


Source: U.S. Border Patrol data obtained by CBS News. Get the data. Created with Datawrapper.



NOTE: USBP Tucson Sector Recovered UBC Remains for FY 2020 were not publicly available at the publication of this report.

1999 - 2021 Muertes de migrantes registradas y estaciones de agua de Fronteras Compasivas



Humane Borders Fronteras Compasivas

P.O. Box 72024
Tucson, AZ 86726
520-398-5053
www.humaneborders.org



Entre octubre de 1999 y julio de 2021, Fronteras Compasivas recopiló datos sobre 3862 muertes de migrantes. Algunos puntos rojos representan más de una muerte. En los últimos 21 años, Fronteras Compasivas desplegó equipo para más de 80 estaciones de agua en lugares remotos y estratégicos en México y los Estados Unidos.

Fuentes de los datos:

Oficina del Médico Forense del Condado de Pima
Oficina del Médico Forense del Condado de Maricopa
Oficina del Médico Forense del Condado de Cochise
Sheriff (Alguacil) del Condado de Yuma
Patrulla Fronteriza de los Estados Unidos

The magnitude of Mexico's disappearance crisis, Ctd.

Disappeared and Missing Persons per Year: March 15, 1964 – February 10, 2023. 110,068 missing people





PHASE 2 FORENSIC DATA BANK ON MISSING MIGRANTS

A.- Create Forensic Data Banks of Missing Migrants

in communities and countries of origin,

comprised of governmental and non-governmental partners,

in order to:

1. Collect, centralize and improve the quantity and quality of AM-PM information:

- Centralize and update lists of missing migrants from government and NGOS;
- Improve AM Physical and background information on each case information;
- Add genetic information to all families entering the Forensic Bank on Missing Migrants (FRS);
- Improve PM information by conducting/supporting exhumations in key cemeteries, forensic examinations, and/or DNA processing.
- Create multidisciplinary and inter-institutional case monitoring teams: greater follow-up on cases.

2. Improve and adopt good forensic practices

- 1.** Use chain of custody, informed consent, multidisciplinary integrated identification reports and strong notification protocols.
- 2.** Psycho social support

MISSING MIGRANTS FORENSIC DATA BANKS

Established Banks:

- El Salvador (2010).
- Honduras (2011).
- Guatemala (2012 – temporary).
- Chiapas, México (2012).
- Oaxaca, México (2016).
- Select cases from Costa Rica, Ecuador, Peru & various Mexican states.

Special Mechanisms:

- Forensic Commission (Tamaulipas & Nuevo León, 2013)
- Chihuahua, México (2016).
- Coahuila, México (2017).

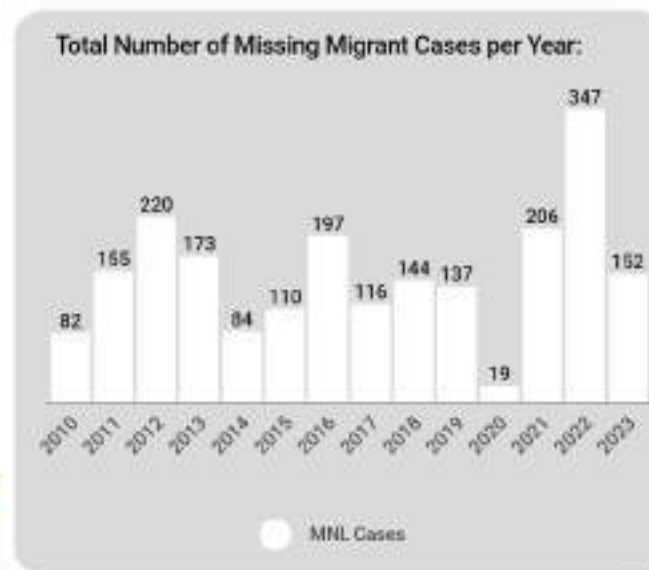
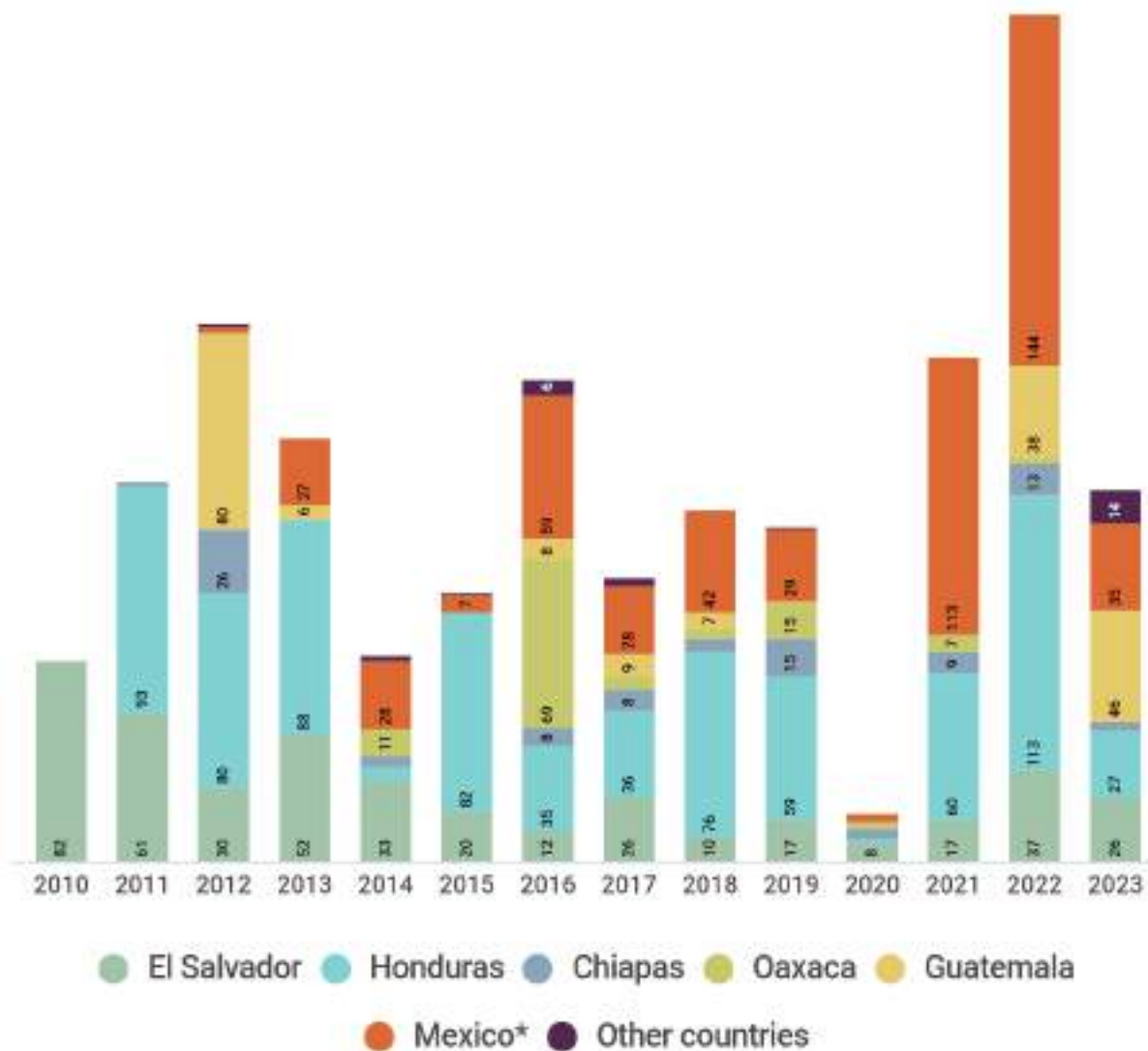
Typically Banks are composed of *local*:

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Human Rights Prosecutor's Office, or State or Federal prosecutor Office.
- Association of families of missing migrants "Comités".
- NGOs working on migrants' issues.
- EAAF in a temporary role, as local forensic staff become involved in the effort.

For Countries where we cannot work with give:

- NGOs Coalitions, including legal NGOs
- Notary for affidavit
- Family association

2. Number of Missing Migrant Cases Collected per Year and per Forensic Data Bank or Other Mechanism



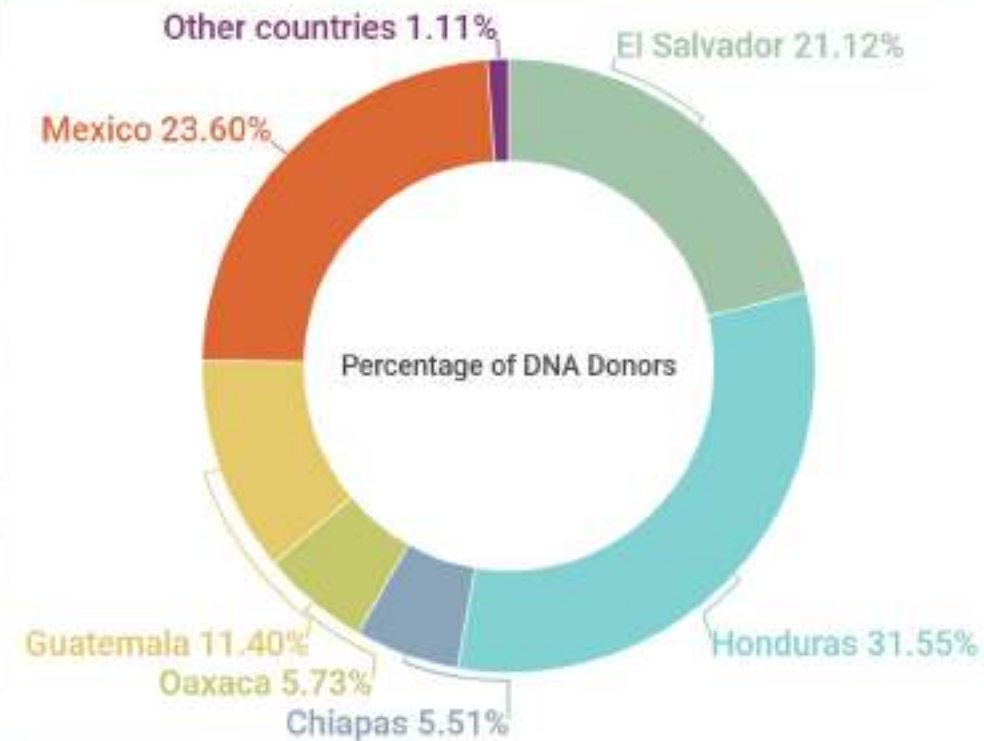
 **2,142**
 Total Missing Migrant
 (Migrantes no
 Localizados, MNL)
 cases documented via
 the Border Project

*Mexico: includes cases that have been entered into the Border Project within Mexico with the exception of the Mexican states of Chiapas and Oaxaca, which have their own operating Forensic Data Banks. In states without data banks, DNA sample collection occurs through agreements with local human rights commissions, state search commissions or local prosecutor's offices.



1.1 Total Number of Missing Migrant Cases (Migrantes no Localizados), Families, & DNA Donors per Forensic Databank or Other Mechanism

FORENSIC DATA BANK	MNL	FAMILIES	DONORS
El Salvador	431	428	1,158
Honduras	756	710	1,730
Chiapas	97	94	302
Oaxaca	117	115	314
Guatemala	195	190	625
Mexico*	518	472	1,294
Costa Rica	2	2	6
Ecuador	5	5	6
Perú	2	2	5
Brasil	1	1	3
Nicaragua	18	18	41
Total	2,142	2,037	5,484



5,484**

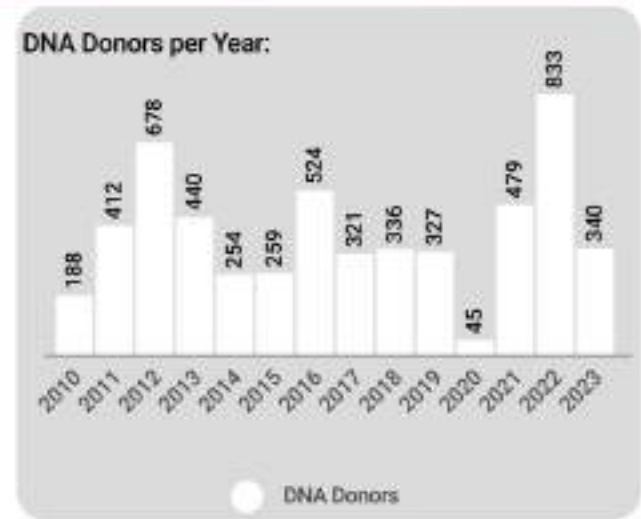
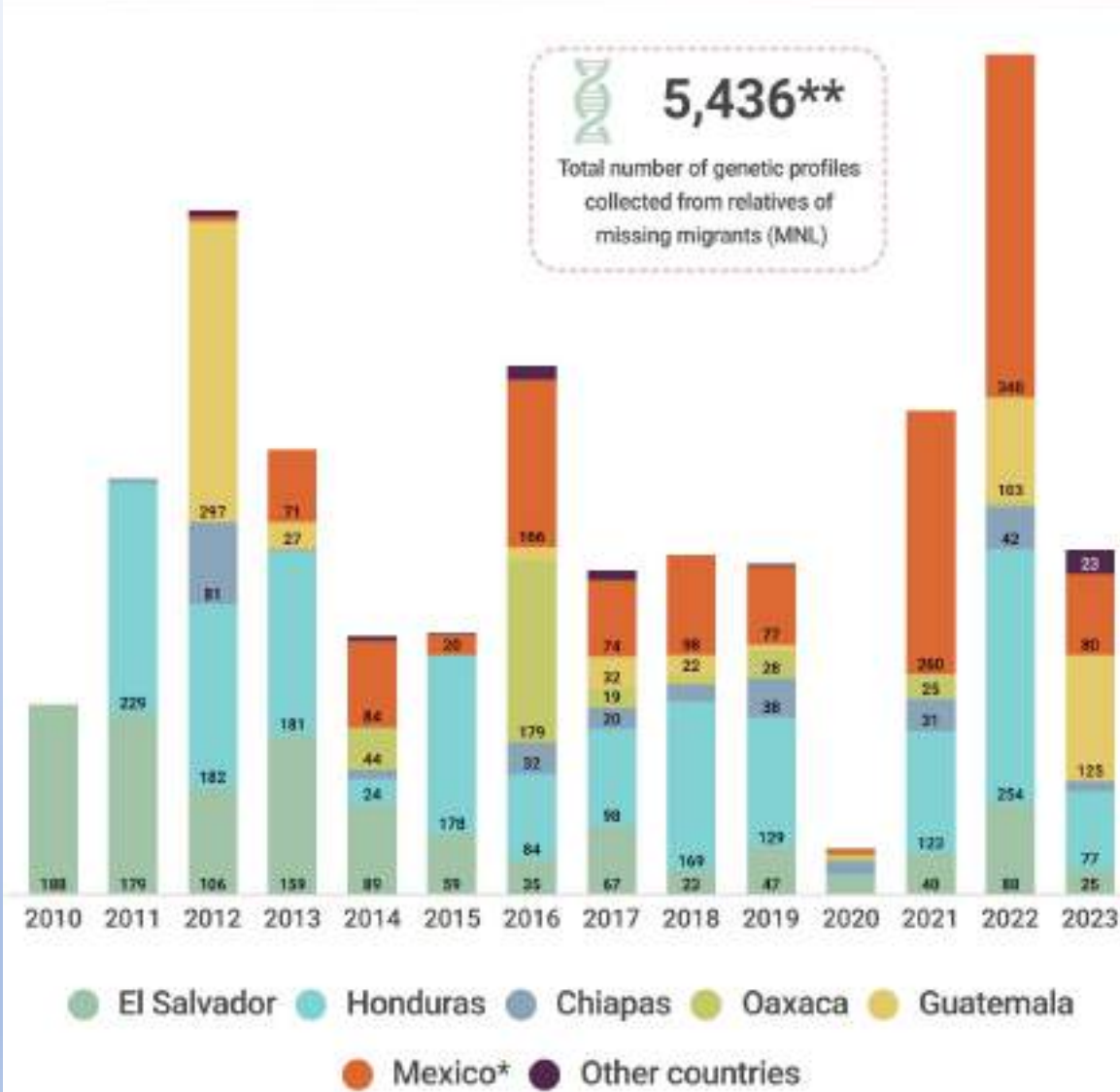
Total number of genetic profiles collected from relatives of missing migrants (MNL)

Mexico: includes cases that have been entered into the Border Project within Mexico with the exception of the Mexican states of Chiapas and Oaxaca, which have their own operating Forensic Data Banks. In states without data banks, DNA sample collection occurs through agreements with local human rights commissions, state search commissions or local prosecutor's offices.

**More than 5,000 donor samples collected have already been processed and the resulting genetic profiles are being used for comparisons with genetic profiles of nonidentified remains in key morgues along the migrant corridor.



3. Number of DNA Donors per Year Collected via Forensic Data Banks or Other Mechanisms



*Mexico: includes cases that have been entered into the Border Project within Mexico with the exception of the Mexican states of Chiapas and Oaxaca, which have their own operating Forensic Data Banks. In states without data banks, DNA sample collection occurs through agreements with local human rights commissions, state search commissions or local prosecutor's offices.



PHASE 3 EXCHANGE

- Strategic agreements for improved intra-state and inter-state data sharing, to facilitate comparison of unidentified remains data with missing migrant ante mortem data working toward a broad-scale transregional mechanism.
- Connect the data of the Bancos with key morgues along the migratory routes.
- Strategic agreements for mass cross-comparison of forensic data; as opposed to one-by-one comparisons.
- Provide multidisciplinary identifications and reports: anthropology, genetics, dentistry, background
- Notification Protocols: in person, with forensic personnel explaining the ID report, psychosocial support, possibility to see the remains .
- Addressing issues from a regional framework.



**2,142**

Total number of MNL cases

**2,037**

Families

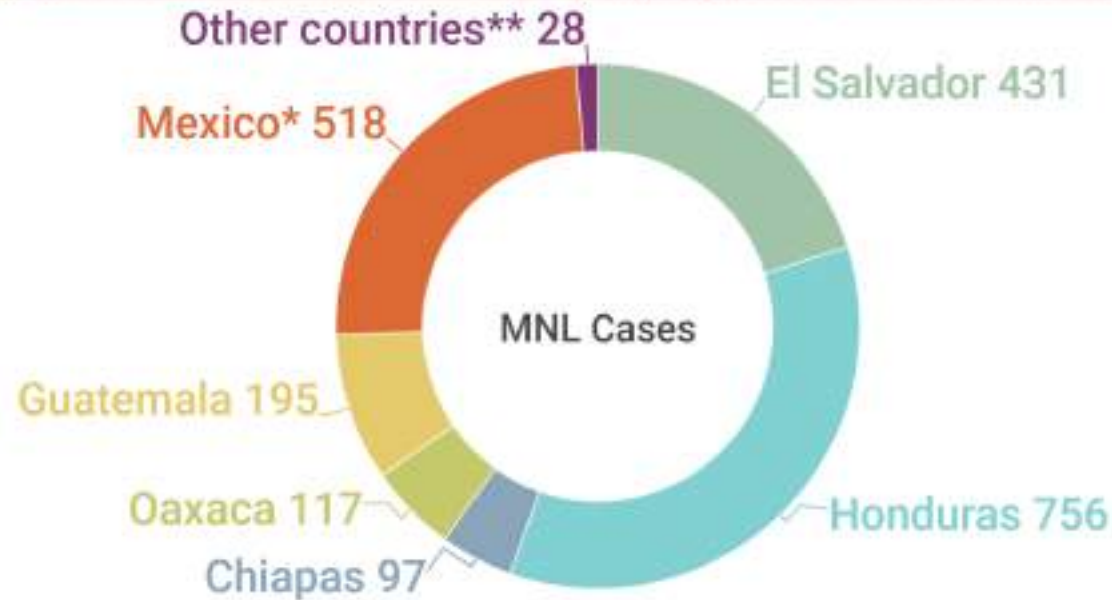
**5,484**

Donor Genetic Profiles

**310**

Identifications

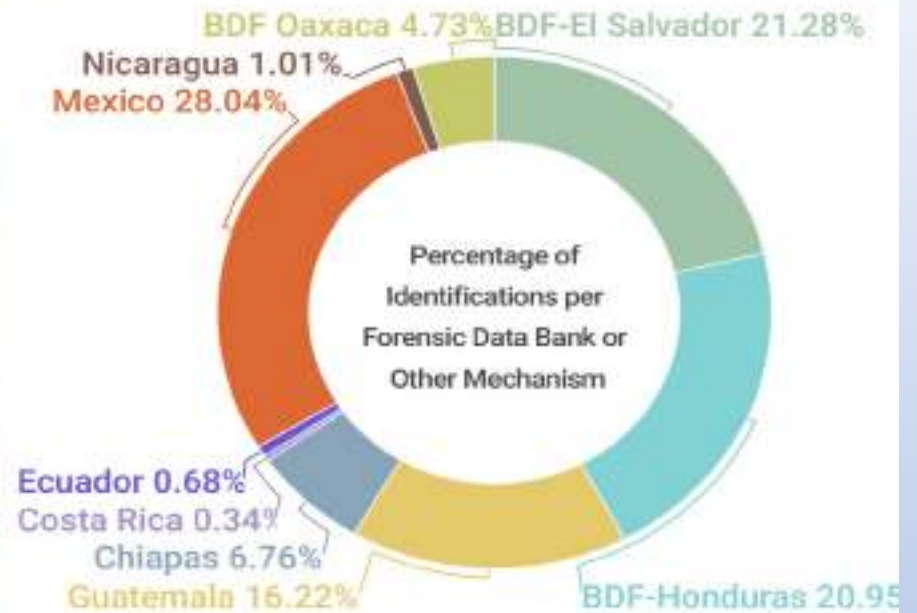
1. Disaggregation of the Total Number of Missing Migrant (MNL) Cases per Forensic Data Bank or Other Mechanism

**2,142**Total Missing Migrant
(Migrantes no
Localizados, MNL)
cases documented via
the Border Project

*Mexico: includes cases that have been entered into the Border Project within Mexico with the exception of the Mexican states of Chiapas and Oaxaca, which have their own operating Forensic Data Banks. In states without data banks, DNA sample collection occurs through agreements with local human rights commissions, state search commissions or local prosecutor's offices.

** DNA sample collection completed in Peru, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Brazil.

4.1 Identifications per Data Bank or Other Mechanism and per Place of Remains Discovery



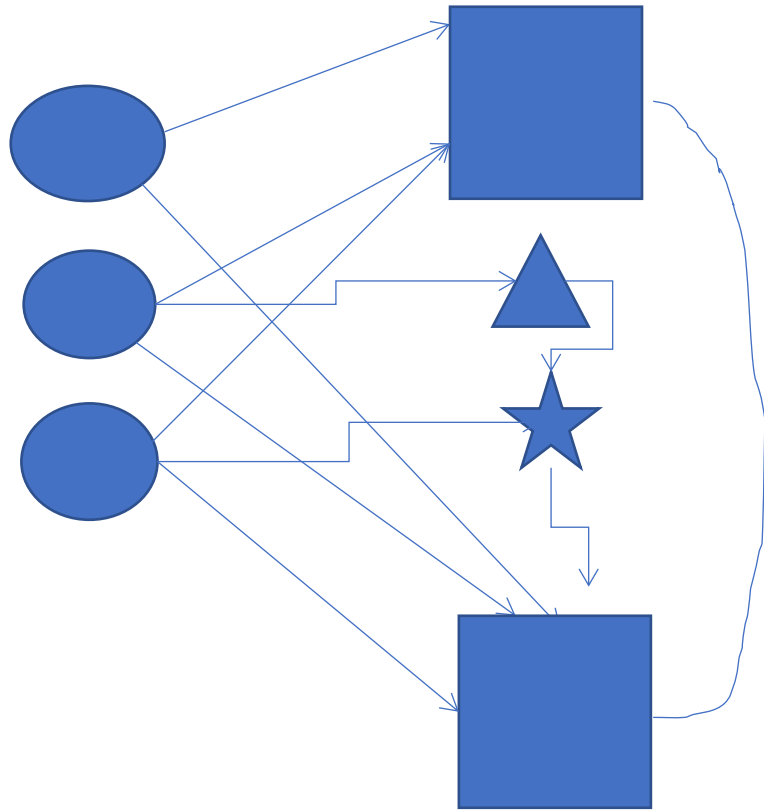
EXCHANGE OF AM- PM FORENSIC INFORMATION

Case by
case

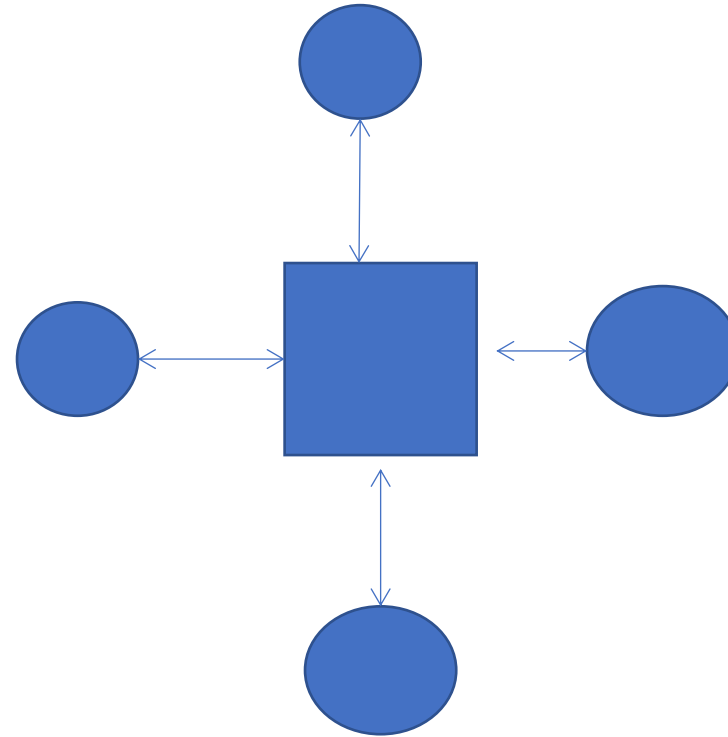
Large scale
crossing

IDEAL vs REAL DATA EXCHANGE

- REAL up to 2021



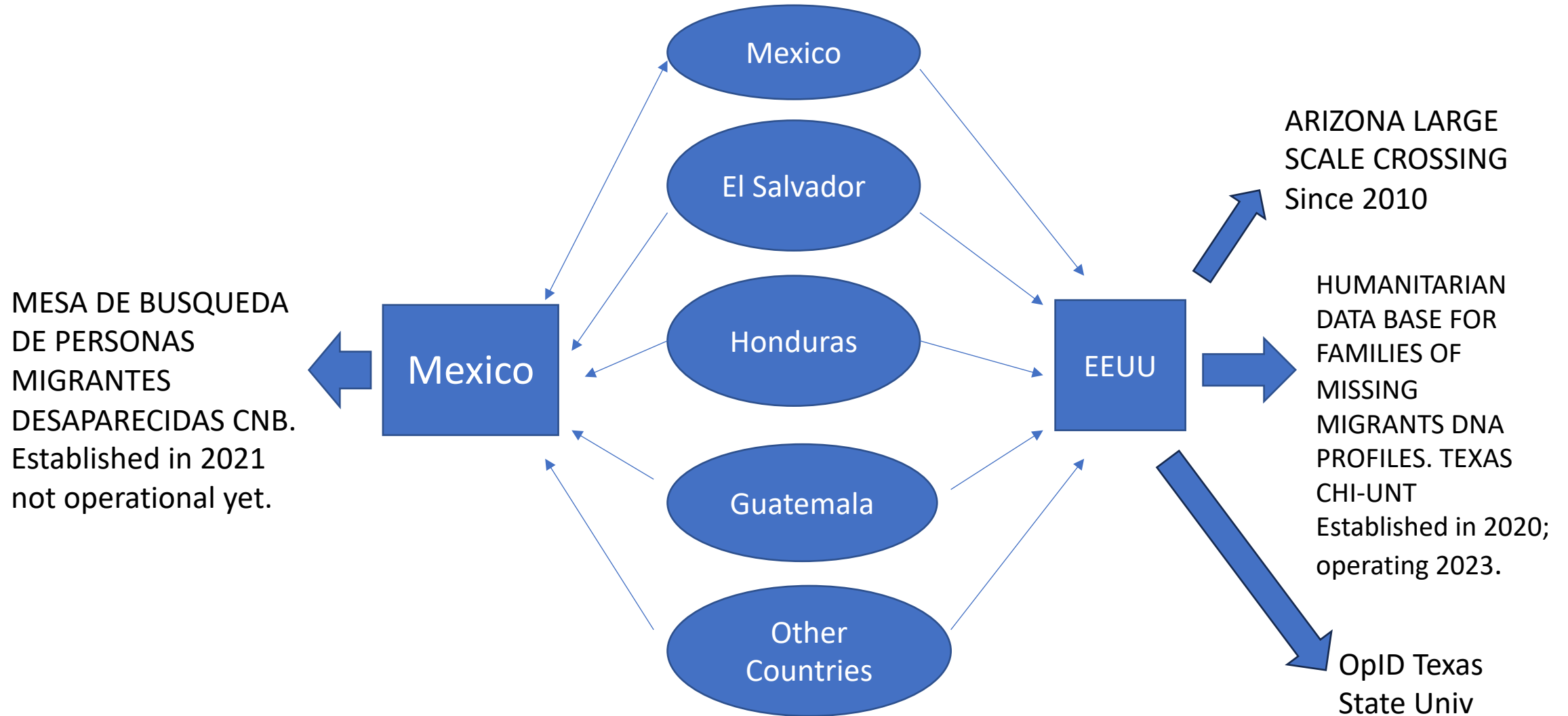
- IDEAL



Exchange Modalities

- The main goal is a regional system that allows large scale crossing
- In the meantime, building the system may take several years and steps
- National and transnational Networks and alliances are critical
- Procedural Economy MOU
- AIB
- Disaggregate remains that may correspond to migrants from other no ID remains .
 - Help search, comparison and design of public policy providing statistics and space and time data
- Arizona. Pima county Medical Examiner Office
- Texas
 - OpID
 - Humanitarian Data Base for Missing Migrant Family
- Mexico
 - Mexican States. AIB MOU
 - Mexican Federal level AIB

MISSING MIGRANT PUBLIC POLICY TWO NEW MECHANISMS





CONCLUSION

- Identification notifications in person, with **integrated multidisciplinary identification reports**, forensic explanation of results and psychosocial support services for family members.
- The need for a regional mechanism for the exchange of AM-PM information on missing persons and unidentified remains is evident.
- Works towards agreements for large-scale crossing over case-by-case comparison.
 - MEXICO and TEXAS being the biggest challenges.

CONCLUSION

- The creation of Forensic Data Bank on Missing Migrants helps to **centralize efforts**, resources and information and to improve quality control on the search of missing migrants.
- The incorporation of **non-governmental organizations** into government efforts significantly improves the search for missing migrants among unidentified remains.
- Given the disparity of forensic services in the region transnationally, **quality reviews of AM-PM** information are crucial.
- As expected, by improving **AM and background information** and adding genetics, the chances of identifying their remains are significantly improved.
- Disaggregate remains by potential UBCs can improve the search for missing migrants and supports designing public policy.
- Work on cases at the same time that you work on public policy building the transnational system.



THE END

THANK YOU





A Forensic Response for African Missing Migrants



Claudia Bisso | Anjli Parrin
20 September 2023

EAAF work in Africa

- Worked in 19 countries over 28 years
- Training, forensic investigations, transitional justice, humanitarian support
- Representation in Pretoria, South Africa
- Currently launching border project for Africa

Context

- **Increasing number of missing migrants**
- **Regional momentum**
 - Rabat Process & this meeting on missing migrants demonstrates the willingness
- Yet **significant barriers remain**
 - Fragmentation
 - Lack of a coordinated and standardized investigative/forensic approach,
 - Mistrust
 - Lack of contextual knowledge

Impairs effective identification of missing migrants from Africa



Objectives

1. **Better understand the problem**, by collecting, collating, & analyzing disparate data
2. **Create forensic databanks & mechanisms** with AM data & family DNA reference samples to facilitate IDs
3. **Share & compare missing migrant files with unidentified bodies at scale**, to ID & return remains to families



Phase I

1. **Host 2 information-sharing workshops**
 - In Addis and in Spain
2. **Map, partner with, and sensitize** migrant communities, family groups, & NGOs in **Morocco, Senegal, The Gambia, Tunisia & potentially Algeria**
3. **Map, partner with & sensitize** migrant family groups in **Spain**
4. **Survey cemeteries & morgues, & review medicolegal procedures** used for missing migrants in key locations
5. **Analyze existing legal frameworks & identify existing gaps** in the law





Jose Cendon /ICRC

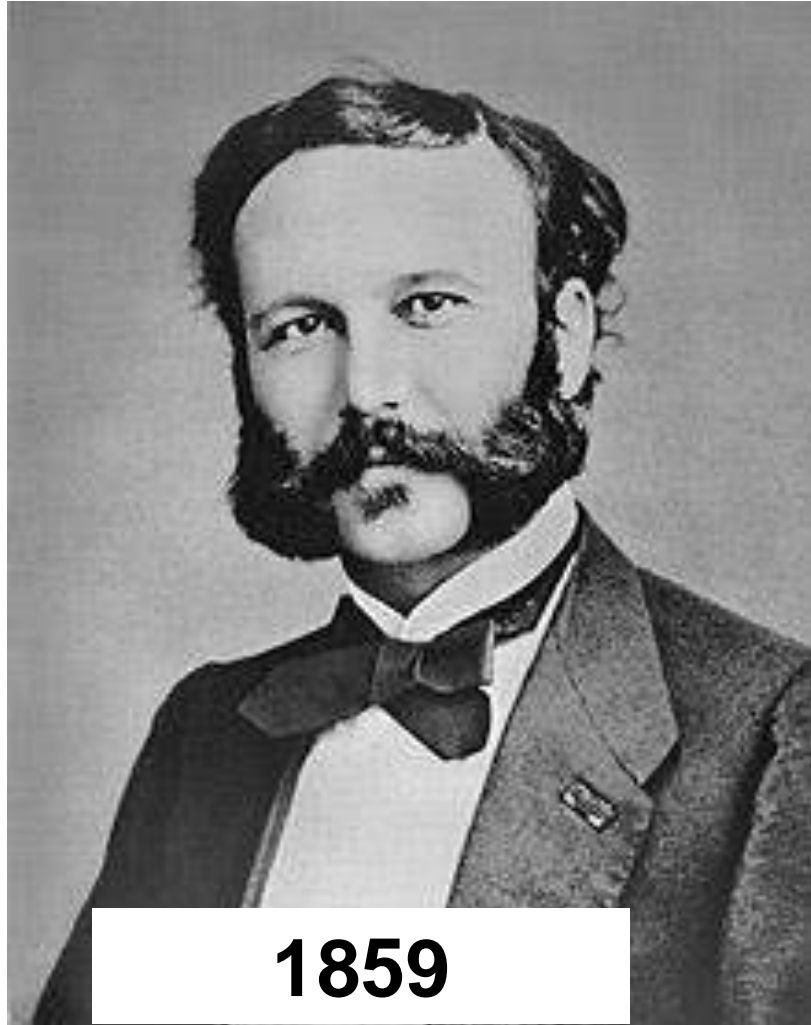
Approaches and Tools in the search of missing migrants



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Schweizerisches Rotes Kreuz
Croce Rossa Svizzera



Restoring Family Links Network



Cooperation with
191 National Societies and the ICRC



20.09.2023

Approaches and tools in the search for migrants



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Croce Rossa Svizzera

Prevention

Safety Tips for Families

#KeepFamilyTogether



Learn phone numbers and email address of your family members by heart

#KeepFamilyTogether



Memorize username and password for social media accounts

#KeepFamilyTogether



Communicate your intended route to family members

#KeepFamilyTogether



Inform family members in intervals about your journey and your locations

#KeepFamilyTogether



If you have children, help them to memorise the names of family members and their contact details. Children should also carry this information with them at all times.

#KeepFamilyTogether



Look for a Red Cross or Red Crescent point immediately when losing contact with family members

#KeepFamilyTogether

2023

HANDBOOK

on safe avenues to access protection in Europe



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Approaches and tools in the search for migrants



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Oral messages of rescued persons to their families



IFRC

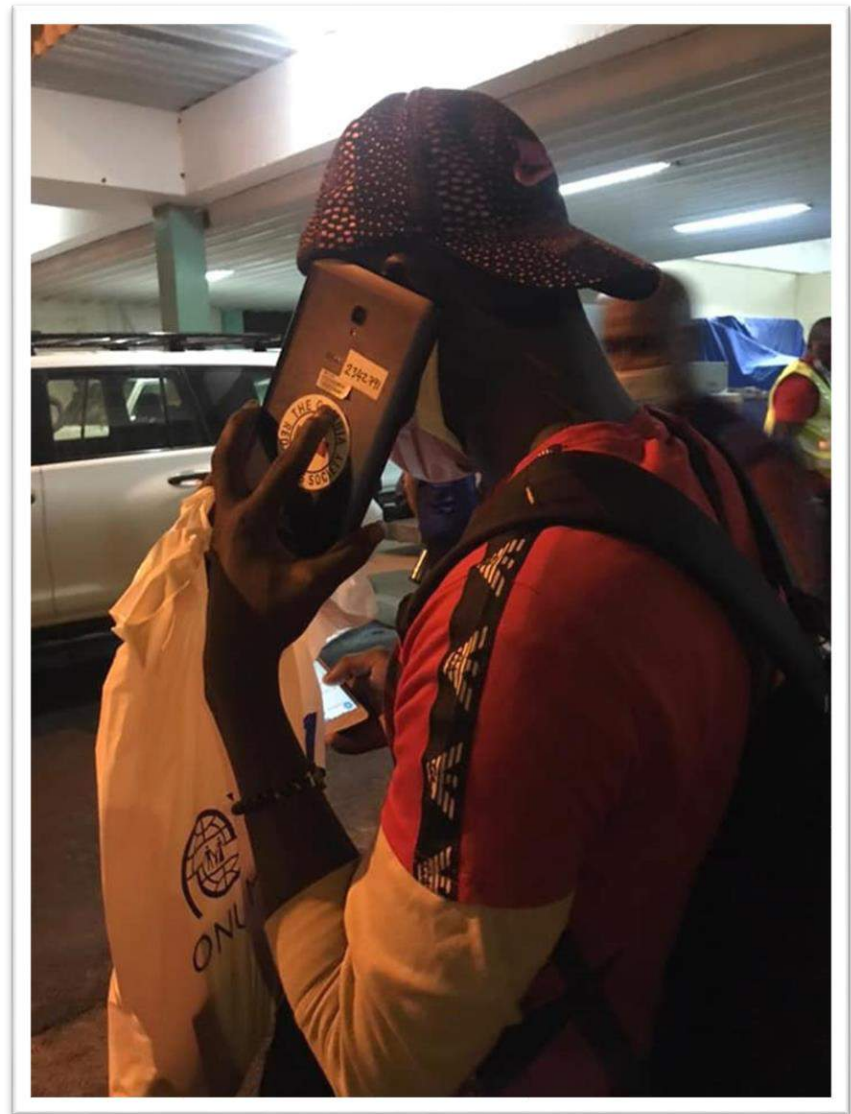
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Provision of call services



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Digital Search through www.tracetheface.org



Search

1 - 12 of 5003 results

HOW DOES IT WORK

Photo search

Filters

Age

Gender

Country of origin

Published after

APPLY FILTERS

0010007 I am looking for my Family DO YOU HAVE INFORMATION?

0010006 I am looking for my Family DO YOU HAVE INFORMATION?

0010005 I am looking for my Husband DO YOU HAVE INFORMATION?

0010004 I am looking for my Family DO YOU HAVE INFORMATION?

0010003 I am looking for my Family DO YOU HAVE INFORMATION?

0010002 I am looking for my Family DO YOU HAVE INFORMATION?

RESTORING FAMILY LINKS

April 2015

I am looking for my ...

father daughter family parents

family family mother mother

mother family father family

brother brother brother family

If you have any information, please contact us! Your information will be kept confidential!

021 302 73 00 | tracing@redcross.ch

More photos: <http://familylinks.ukrc.org/europe>

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Red Cross logo



Red Cross messages to families with no other means of communication



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Social Media training – a pilot project

📅 تاریخ: چهارشنبه بعدازظهر یا به توافق می رسد
📍 مکان: آنلاین، لینک Zoom از طریق ایمیل ارسال می شود
🕒 زمان: 30 دقیقه، در 2 یا 3 جلسه
🗣️ زبان: فارسی/دری

این جلسه قصد دارد شرکت کنندگان را با تحقیق در شبکه های اجتماعی برای یافتن عزیزی که در سفر مهاجرت ناپدید شده است آشنا کند. شبکه های اجتماعی و سرویس های پیام رسانی مانند فیس بوک و تلگرام چگونه کار می کنند؟ الگوریتم چیست؟ تفاوت بین تبلیغات و اطلاع رسانی چیست؟ چگونه تنظیمات امنیتی و خصوصی حساب خود را مدیریت کرد؟ چگونه با استفاده از ابزارهای جستجوی اینترنتی عزیزی را پیدا کرد؟

تدریس نینا خامسی

دانشجوی دکترا در موسسه تحصیلات تکمیلی

مطالعات بین المللی و توسعه در ژنو

(IHEID) هستم. مطالعه می کنم که چگونه تکنولوژی های جدید و رسانه های اجتماعی می توانند به مهاجران در اروپا کمک کنند. در ابتدای دوره، پروژه خود را ارائه می کنم و از شرکت کنندگان می پرسم که آیا موافق شرکت هستند یا خیر. [اطلاعات بیشتر در مورد](#)



📷 [تحقیقاتم در اینجا](#) ninahap

جستجو با شبکه های اجتماعی

کلاس کامپیوتر آنلاین برای عزیزان، اعضای فامیلا و یا اقارب را در اینترنت پیدا کردن. با همکاری صلیب سرخ سوئیس.

ثبت نام

0041584004380
nina.khamsy@graduateinstitute.ch

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Schweizerisches Rotes Kreuz
Croce Rossa Svizzera

20.09.2023

Approaches and tools in the search for migrants



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Catania Project – Forensics & DNA collection

Tracing of families of missing (reverse of the normal tracing service)



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Psychosocial support

Ambiguous Loss as a long-term and transgenerational challenge



Peter Dammann/SRK



20.09.2023
Approaches and tools in the search for migrants



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Best Practices



MIGRATION INFORMATION CENTER



Best Practices – Pledge & Working Group with Authorities

The screenshot shows the ICRC website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the ICRC logo, the slogan "Power of humanity", and menu items for "International Conference", "Council of Delegates", "IFRC General Assembly", and "Blog". A search bar is also present. The main content area features a large grey box with the title "Dead migrants and information to their families". Below this, a breadcrumb trail reads: "Statutory Meetings / International Conference / Pledges / Dead migrants and information to their families / Pledge Report / Dead migrants and information to their families".

Actions taken:

- Swiss Red Cross is part of the **Working Group on "Dead Migrants and their Families"**. This Working Group is composed of representatives from **9 European National Societies** who have signed the Pledge and by **key ICRC representatives**. A plan of action and template for a mapping survey to facilitate in-country mapping of stakeholders and processes was established. For Switzerland, the Swiss Red Cross filled in the mapping together with DVI Switzerland (Disaster Victim Identification); the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and the Federal Department of Justice and Police gave their feedback. The mapping was finalized by the beginning of 2019.
- Subsequent to the signing of the pledge by Switzerland in 2018, a **joint working group** comprising representatives of Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Federal Police, State Secretariat for Migration and Swiss Red Cross was created and met for the first time in February 2019. The group committed to the following goals:

Pledge report

Submitted by Swiss Red Cross, Swiss Government

Date: July 30, 2019

Pledge number: OP320001

Country - Type of Entity:
Switzerland - National Society
Switzerland - States

Language: English

A large red arrow points from the right side of the page towards the "Pledge report" section. A red rectangular box highlights the "Country - Type of Entity" field, which lists "Switzerland - National Society" and "Switzerland - States".

Recommendations to the states

Advocate for the development and implementation of comprehensive policies that prioritize the protection of migrants and refugees, including measures to

- prevent family separation during migration
- establish clear procedures for tracing missing persons
- save data and provide the RFL network access to data
- give migrants access to WIFI & charging stations
- treat family reunification requests in a expedited manner e.g. facilitate access to embassies, exit visa and travel documents
- Best interest of the child must be primary consideration
- offer legal pathways / safe avenues for migration



PRACTICAL CHALLENGES ON THE BASIS OF CONCRETE EXAMPLES

Madam moderator, fellow panelist, distinguished delegates, good afternoon.

Large numbers of migrants go missing en route their journey. Some may be alive, unable to communicate, others die, on land and at sea. In both cases, their relatives suffer painful uncertainty over the fate of their loved one.

While an effective effort to address the fate of missing migrants requires regional cooperation along migratory routes, it needs to start with a clarification of the existing national capacities and relevant institutional, legal and policy frameworks of each concerned state.

Tracing the families of separated migrants and searching for missing migrants poses a substantial challenge for governments as follows amongst others:

1. Lack of a legal and policy framework - legal obligations related to the search and identification of missing migrants and the rights and needs of their families remains a major challenge.

Lack of a legal framework that recognises or attributes a legal status to missing persons. The absence of a legal status, especially a declaration/certificate of absence means that families are forced to initiate steps for the recognition of a presumption or formal declaration of death to exercise their rights or access social and material support.

The lack of clear domestic legislation pertaining to the missing persons or the possibility of declaring a relative missing, administrative problems regarding property and inheritance, as well as divorce, remarriage and the custody of children are common challenges for families once one of their own is missing.

In many countries including The Gambia, domestic legislation does not provide any status for missing persons. It is therefore, difficult for families to get their relatives recognised as missing and enable them to receive support. Seeking a death certificate is often the only option available in order to access property, an inheritance and other assets, or to change a marital status. It puts families in a difficult position, as they are often unwilling to declare their relatives dead or might feel guilty if they do so.

2. Data and information Gaps is another major challenge - limited data from official sources; under-reporting of deaths and disappearances; lack of options for safe and legal mobility increases the likelihood that migrants take dangerous, remote routes with the aim of avoiding detection; and bodies lost on remote and maritime routes means identification almost impossible.

Many a time, migrants are reported missing by their families, by co-travellers or based on information provided by others, such as diaspora contacts, smugglers and traffickers. State authorities in countries of migrant origin, transit and destination and other actors involved in the search for missing migrants should ensure that families and others can provide information in an accessible, safe and confidential manner.

3. The process/procedure of tracing of a missing migrant and tracing of the families of a missing migrant is very cumbersome. The procedure to report that someone went missing abroad, who can report someone as missing? does the person reporting the disappearance of a migrant need to show a proof of identity to demonstrate family link? Where can one file a missing report? How is the search conducted after the report is received by the respective authority?

4. Inadequate or lack of National level mechanisms - recording of missing migrant cases, search procedures, the recovery, documentation and identification of unidentified human remains and the provision of support to concerned families is very fragmented and unfulfilling. More devastating is the non-existence of certificate of absence.

5. Coordination amongst local stakeholders and actors for the searching of a missing migrant and the tracing of the families of a missing migrant is a challenge. This includes lack of clarity on the roles and contributions of different stakeholders and actors. Putting in place measures that would prevent people from going missing, a coordination mechanism for sharing and disseminating information and ensuring synergy and complementarity require the participation, coordination and involvement of all relevant authorities including the legal and investigative bodies. This will strengthen the capacity and system to collect, centralize and process information related to missing persons and clarify their fate and whereabouts.

6. Global commitments undertaken on coordination and exchange of information on missing migrants is a challenge. Inadequate coordinated international efforts on missing migrants to cooperate in the standard collection and exchange of relevant information and to identify those who have died or gone missing, and to facilitate communication with affected families as prescribed by GCM Objective 8 is still challenging.

7. Sub regional level mechanisms to facilitate transnational coordination and information exchange. Migrants do lose contact with their families for various reasons. They may have lost contact details of their families or they may be in detention facilities, prisons or hospitals, unable to communicate. Records of their passing through immigration controls or stay in reception and accommodation centres may be instrumental in locating them. State authorities engaged in the search for missing migrants can use such sources and create a database where information can be shared within the sub-region.

8. Information harmonization and centralization - the fragmentation of information relevant to the search for missing migrants among different local, regional and central authorities is a major obstacle to an effective search. While case-by-case searches maybe the reality in many contexts, efforts should aim to create data management systems that allow for systematic access to, compilation and comparison of relevant data at national level as a prerequisite for international data sharing.

9. Lack of capacity to identify bodies in order to provide answers on the fate and whereabouts of missing relatives. Strengthening the capacities of the existing structures and mechanisms, regular dialogue and coordination with all relevant authorities responsible for the search of missing migrants are crucial not only to access the affected families and communities, but to also mobilize

authorities to meet their obligations and offer appropriate technical advice and support. Many a time states lack the forensic capacity to undertake DNA analysis.

Best practices.....

Taskforce for missing migrants including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Interior and Justice

National Focal Point for missing migrants

Migration focal points across diplomatic missions

Government working closely with Gambian Communities and Associations to identify and record missing migrants...eg, Libya

Collaboration with ICRC on DNA testing and analysis of families of missing migrants

Collaboration with the Gambia Red Cross Society

Recommendations....

Enacting domestic legislation pertaining to the missing persons

Establishing transnational coordination channels and designate contact points for families in order to facilitate identification of remains and the provision of information to families.

Creating regional and transregional frameworks to harmonise national policies and legal and regulatory frameworks concerning the search for missing persons and forensic identification in the context of migration.

States and other actors along a migratory route to cooperate in harmonising the collection of information and in developing standardised information management systems.

Systematic information exchange between national focal points or counterpart institutions, the provision of mutual access to relevant databases and registers.

Establishing information-sharing pathways and interfaces that are dedicated exclusively to establishing the fate and whereabouts of missing migrants, that allow for search strategies that begin with families reporting a relative as missing as well as those initiated on the basis of unidentified remains or requests from migrants who have lost contact with their families.



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Département fédéral de justice et police DFJP
Office fédéral de la police fedpol

2021 : Nouvelle base de données d'INTERPOL pour l'identification de personnes disparues, par la comparaison de données génétiques familiales

OU

" **INTERPOL**
Family-Associated Matching to
Identify Lost Individuals Abroad "



Pascal Eschmann

Fedpol / Coopération policière internationale



Identification au niveau mondial de personnes disparues
par la recherche ADN en parentalité



Identification par l'ADN

Comparaison directe
de profils ADN

Comparaison de
profils ADN familiaux



ADN de la personne disparue :
échantillon médical antérieur
ou objet personnel



ADN du cadavre
ou des restes humains
non identifiés



ADN de proches
biologiques de la
personne disparue



Base de données génétiques
d'INTERPOL

**DEPUIS 2004,
SUCCÈS AVÉRÉ**



Service de recherche ADN
en parentalité

**À COMPTER DE 2021,
NOUVELLES POSSIBILITÉS**



INTERPOL



Cas d'application principal





Processus suisse

Disparition

- En Suisse, le processus d'identification d'une personne disparue commence par **l'annonce de disparition** faite par les proches/la famille.
- L'annonce de disparition est faite auprès de la **police locale** ou **cantonale**.
- La police procède à des **recherches** dans le système de recherche de personnes national (**RIPOL**) et si nécessaire dans le système européen **SIS** (Schengen Information System) ou fait une demande à la police fédérale pour inscrire une recherche dans **Interpol**.
- Un maximum d'informations est réuni sur la personne en collaboration avec les proches, le dentiste ou le médecin du disparu : signalement, photographie, copie de documents d'identité, caractéristiques physiques, ... => **données AM** (*ante-mortem*)

Recherches possibles:





Processus suisse

Découverte de cadavre

- En Suisse, lors de la découverte d'un cadavre inconnu, des **données *post-mortem* (PM)** sont récoltées par la police cantonale (=> échantillons d'ADN, empreintes digitales, données dentaires, photos des caractéristiques du corps et des effets personnels, ...).
- Ces données sont recherchées, transmises et **comparées** avec les données de personnes signalées disparues, au niveau national et, par l'intermédiaire de la coopération policière, au niveau international.
- En cas de correspondance, donc d'identification, l'information est transmise à la police locale où habitait la victime ou ses proches, et celle-ci est chargée **d'informer les proches**.

NEW ! I-Familia

- Dans l'attente ou dans l'espoir de retrouver la personne disparue et de l'identifier afin d'apporter des réponses aux familles, les proches biologiques du disparu peuvent donner leur accord au prélèvement et à l'enregistrement de leur ADN dans I-Familia.





Positionnement de la Suisse

- Dans le domaine de la migration et de l'identification de disparus ou de cadavres, la **coopération policière internationale** est essentielle : elle permet d'établir le lien entre les proches d'un disparu dans un pays et un cadavre ou une personne non-identifiée dans un autre pays. La Suisse exploite les possibilités d'identifications de cadavres au moyen de leur ADN depuis plusieurs années, notamment en collaboration avec Interpol.
- La **Suisse est membre d'Interpol** et elle participe également au **Processus de Rabat**, ce qui permet au Secrétariat d'Etat aux migrations de renforcer le dialogue migratoire, avec l'Union européenne comme avec les Etats africains.
- Pour la Suisse, **I-Familia** est un nouvel outil important, qui s'ajoute utilement aux **notices jaunes et noires** d'Interpol dans le cadre de la recherche et l'identification de migrants disparus et de la réunification de familles.
- La Suisse met en œuvre **I-Familia** et la Police fédérale (fedpol), compétente pour la coopération policière internationale, coordonne le prélèvement et l'exploitation des profils ADN dans un but d'identification avec différents partenaires nationaux comme les Polices cantonales, le Département fédéral des Affaires Etrangères, le Secrétariat d'Etat aux migrations et la Croix-Rouge suisse.



INTERPOL





I-Familia

I-Familia d'Interpol est un service novateur, gratuit et disponible pour les 195 pays membres



INTERPOL



I-Familia

- base de données ADN dédiée qui héberge les profils ADN **anonymes** des proches biologiques des personnes disparues et des restes humains non identifiés.
- base de données séparée **sans lien avec d'autres bases de données** INTERPOL contenant des données *criminelles*.
- Fin 2021, plus de **12 000 notices jaunes actives** – alertes policières internationales pour **personnes disparues** – avaient été émises par le Secrétariat général d'INTERPOL, soulignant la nécessité d'une plus grande coopération internationale.

«I-Familia est un outil humanitaire qui, grâce à la portée mondiale d'INTERPOL, ouvre de nouvelles possibilités immenses pour identifier les personnes disparues et apporter des réponses aux familles.»

Services de police : merci de prendre contact avec le Bureau central national B.C.N. INTERPOL de votre pays pour obtenir les renseignements utiles à une participation au service I-Familia.



I-Familia

Au 1er août 2023, I-Familia contient :

11,243



profils ADN de restes humains non identifiés (64 pays membres)

Les 10 principaux pays contributeurs



1,376



profils ADN de proches biologiques de personnes disparues (41 pays membres)

Les 10 principaux pays contributeurs



5 rapprochements confirmés par les pays membres [2021 - 2023]

67 rapprochements en attente de confirmation/informations complémentaires de la part des pays membres

Source : Newsletter I-Familia 08.2023 / INTERPOL



I-Familia

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المملكة المغربية
وزارة التضامن والإعانة الاجتماعية
والأسرة

ROYAUME DU MAROC
MINISTÈRE DE LA SOLIDARITÉ
DE L'INSERTION SOCIALE ET DE LA FAMILLE

Enfants mineurs non accompagnés ou séparés de leurs familles (Procédures, Expériences et Défis)

20 septembre 2023



Plan de la présentation

- ❑ **Cadre normatif international**
- ❑ **Cadre normatif national**
- ❑ **Politiques publiques**
 - Stratégie Nationale de l'Immigration et de l'Asile
 - Politique publique intégrée de protection de l'enfance
- ❑ **Mise en œuvre territoriale de la PPIPEM**
 - Dispositif territorial de protection de l'enfance



Cadre normatif international

- La déclaration universelle des Droits de l'Homme;
- La Convention Internationale des Droits de l'Enfant (ratifiée par le Maroc le 21 juin 1993) et ses protocoles facultatifs;
- La Convention des Nations Unies contre la criminalité transnationale organisée (2002) et son protocole visant à prévenir, réprimer et punir la traite des personnes, en particulier des femmes et des enfants, ainsi que le Protocole contre le trafic illicite de migrants par terre, air et mer (2004);
- La Convention sur le droit des réfugiés de 1951 ;
- Charte Africaine des Droits et du Bien-être de l'Enfant (CADBE);
- Pacte mondial sur les migrations;
- Pacte mondial sur les réfugiés.



Cadre normatif national

- **La loi n°27-14 relative à la lutte contre la traite des êtres humains**, promulguée le 25 août 2016 qui inclut des mesures pour la prise en charge des victimes de traite et l'harmonisation de la législation interne avec la législation internationale. **Elle établit des mesures plus sévères dans le cas de traite à l'égard des enfants** et a envisagé la création d'une commission nationale de coordination des mesures de lutte et de prévention de la traite d'êtres humains, qui a été lancé en mai 2019 par le Chef du gouvernement.
- **Le code pénal** : ses dispositions s'appliquent également pour la protection des enfants migrants



Cadre normatif national (Suite)

- **La circulaire du Ministère de l'Intérieur n° 4/20 du 8 avril 2020** relative aux enfants migrants non accompagnés, qui renforce les mesures de protection pour les enfants migrants en situation de vulnérabilité;
- **La circulaire du Chef du gouvernement n° 11/2019** en date du 26 juillet 2019, portant sur la territorialisation de la PPIPEM;
- **La circulaire du ministère de la Justice n° 11/19 du 18 avril 2019** relative à la protection des droits de l'enfant migrant, qui rappelle les dispositions légales en vigueur pour protéger les droits des enfants migrants et encourage la mise en place de programmes de formation pour les professionnels travaillant avec ces enfants;
- **La circulaire du département de l'Education nationale, du Préscolaire et des Sports n° 13-487 du 9 octobre 2013** qui porte sur l'intégration des élèves étrangers issus des pays du Sahel et subsahariens dans le système scolaire marocain.



Politiques publiques

- **Stratégie Nationale d'Immigration et d'Asile (SNIA)** lancé en 2013 .
- **Politique publique intégrée de protection de l'enfance** qui intègre les enfants migrants non accompagnés parmi les populations cibles .



Stratégie Nationale d'Immigration et d'Asile (SNIA)



Stratégie Nationale d'Immigration et d'Asile (SNIA)

Haute impulsion Royale :
Vers une gouvernance migratoire holistique de référence



Stratégie Nationale d'Immigration et d'Asile (SNIA)

- Une initiative Royale inédite au niveau régional;
- Une inflexion majeure;
- Une étape fondatrice d'une nouvelle approche humaniste, solidaire et inclusive;
- Inscrite dans la continuité de la vocation éminemment africaine du Royaume;
- Le migrant au centre des préoccupations et des actions autour d'une matrice institutionnelle, juridique et règlementaire rénovée.



De nouvelles réponses aux enjeux stratégiques induits par la question de la migration

Enjeux humanitaires

- **Respect des Droits de l'Homme**
- **Lutte contre la discrimination**
- **Lutte contre la traite des êtres humains**

Enjeux d'intégration

- **Facilitation de l'accès au système sanitaire**
- **Facilitation de l'accès à l'éducation et à la formation**
- **Facilitation de l'accès au logement**
- **Facilitation de l'accès à l'emploi**
- **Communication et sensibilisation**

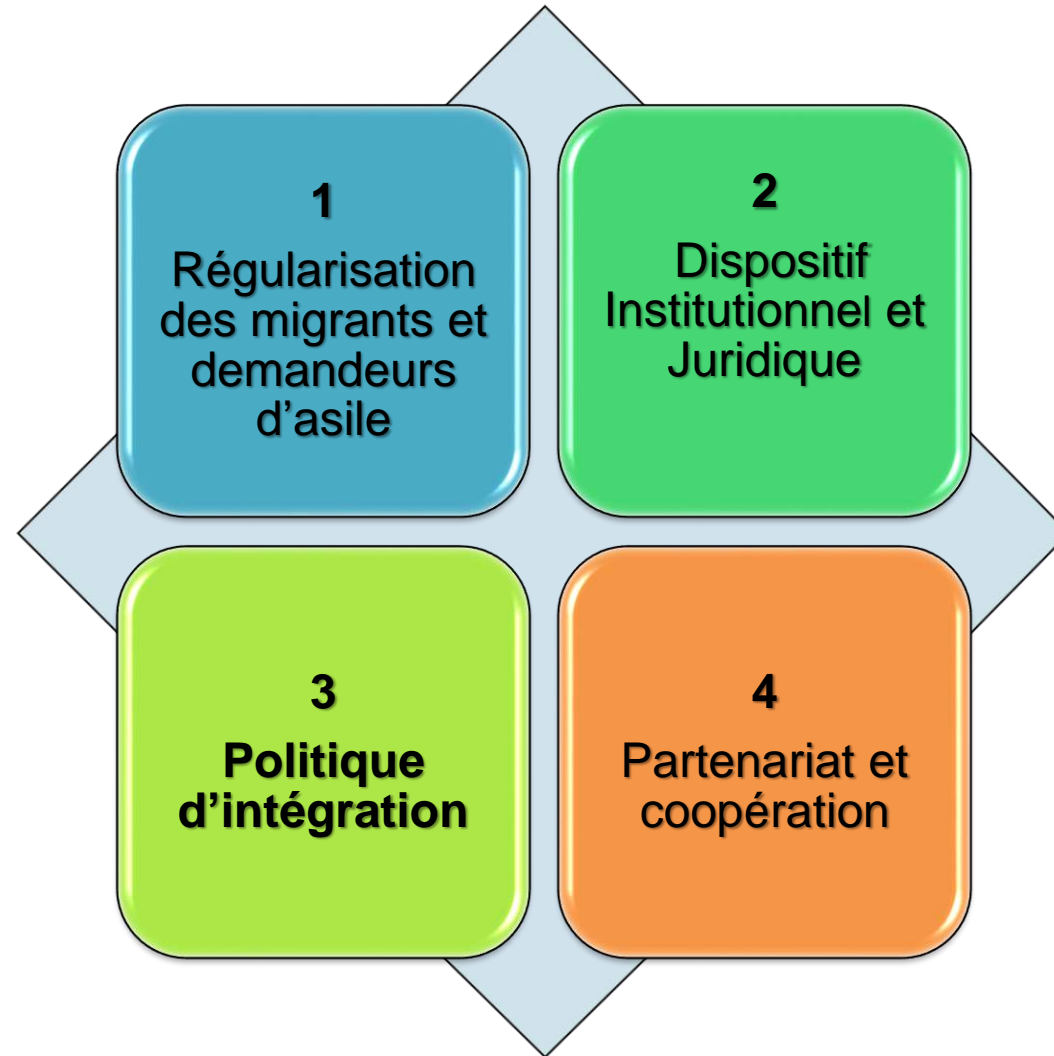
Enjeux de politique étrangère et de gouvernance

- **Partage des responsabilités**
- **Renforcement de la coopération régionale et internationale**
- **Gouvernance régionale et internationale**

Enjeux économiques, culturels et sociaux

- **Perception de l'immigration en tant qu'opportunité et non une menace économique, culturelle ou sociale**

De nouvelles réponses aux enjeux stratégiques induits par la question de la migration



Politique d'intégration

Education & Culture

Intégrer les immigrants et réfugiés dans le système scolaire formel et non formel
Promouvoir la diversité des formes d'expression culturelle
Former les immigrants et réfugiés aux langues et cultures marocaines

Jeunesse & loisirs

Intégrer les immigrants réguliers et réfugiés dans les programmes sportifs et de loisirs destinés à la jeunesse

Santé

Assurer aux immigrants et réfugiés l'accès aux soins dans les mêmes conditions que les Marocains
Coordonner l'action des associations dans le domaine de la santé

Logement

Promouvoir le droit au logement des immigrants réguliers et réfugiés dans les mêmes conditions que les Marocains

Assistance sociale et
humanitaire

Apporter une assistance juridique aux immigrants.
Intégrer les migrants dans les programmes de solidarité et développement social.

Formation professionnelle

Assurer l'accès des immigrants à la formation professionnelle
Faciliter l'intégration professionnelle des immigrants régularisés

Emploi

Faciliter l'accès des immigrants réguliers à l'emploi.
Promouvoir la création d'entreprises par les immigrants réguliers
Couvrir les besoins spécifiques en main d'œuvre.



Politique publique intégrée de protection de l'enfance (PPIPEM)



Politique publique intégrée de protection de l'enfance

- Adoptée en juin 2015, la Politique Publique intégrée de protection de l'enfance pour la période 2015-2025, constitue une vision commune des différents intervenants dans le domaine de la protection de l'enfance;
- Vise à asseoir un environnement protecteur fondé sur la mise en place de dispositifs intégrés de protection de l'enfance;
- C'est une feuille de route pour renforcer et organiser les différentes interventions dans le domaine de la protection de l'enfance et pour définir clairement les synergies et les mécanismes de coordination opérationnels.



Cibles de la PPIPEM

La PPIPEM cible tous les enfants âgés de moins de 18 ans et leurs familles (Y compris les ENAS) :

- Enfants victimes d'abus, de négligence, de violences, d'exploitation, de traite ;
- Enfants privés de famille (orphelins, abandonnés) ;
- Enfants vivant dans des familles pauvres et/ou dans les zones enclavées/rurales;
- Enfants vivant dans des familles dysfonctionnelles ;
- Enfants non scolarisés ;
- Enfants en situation de travail ; enfants non déclarés à la naissance ; enfants en situation de rue ; enfants en situation de handicap ; enfants toxicomanes ; enfants placés en institution ; enfants témoins, enfants en détention ;
- **ENAS**



Cibles de la PPIPEM (Suite)

- Les familles pauvres ou en situation de précarité;
- Les familles vivant dans des zones rurales ou enclavées, n'ayant pas un accès facile aux services sociaux de base ;
- Les familles en difficulté n'ayant pas les compétences parentales requises pour assurer la protection de leurs enfants.

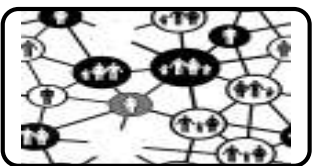


Objectifs Stratégiques de la PPIPEM



Renforcement du cadre légale et de son effectivité

- 4 sous objectifs
- 34 mesures



Mise en place de dispositifs territoriaux intégrés de protection de l'enfance

- 8 sous objectifs
- 28 mesures



Standardisation des services et des pratiques

- 4 sous objectifs
- 10 mesures



Promotion des Normes Sociales protectrices

- 6 sous objectifs
- 26 mesures



Mise en place de systèmes d'information, de Suivi-évaluation et de Monitoring

- 3 sous objectifs
- 17 mesures



Dispositif territorial de protection de l'enfance (Y compris les enfants migrants)



Composantes et missions

Comité provinciale de protection de l'Enfance (CPPE)
(Présidé par M.le gouverneur)

Centre d'accompagnement pour la protection de l'enfance (CAP)
(institutionnel)

Unité de Protection de l'enfance (UPE)
(gérée par une association)

Service d'aide sociale Mobile
(gérée par une association)

Composée de :

Services déconcentrés des départements ministériels concernés par la protection de l'enfance

Mission:

- Mise en place des plans d'actions territoriaux de protection de l'enfance;
- Elaboration des rapports provinciaux de protection de l'enfance

Composée de :

Equipe de travail Multidisciplinaire

Mission:

- Gère le système d'information intégrée de protection de l'Enfance
- Assure le secrétariat du CPPE
- Coordonne avec les UPE pour l'orientation et le suivi des cas
- Elabore des rapports annuels de protection de l'enfance

- Détection, Inscription , écoute et évaluation du cas
- Suivi social du cas en coordination avec le CAPE

Composée de

Equipe de travailleurs sociaux

Missions/Responsabilités

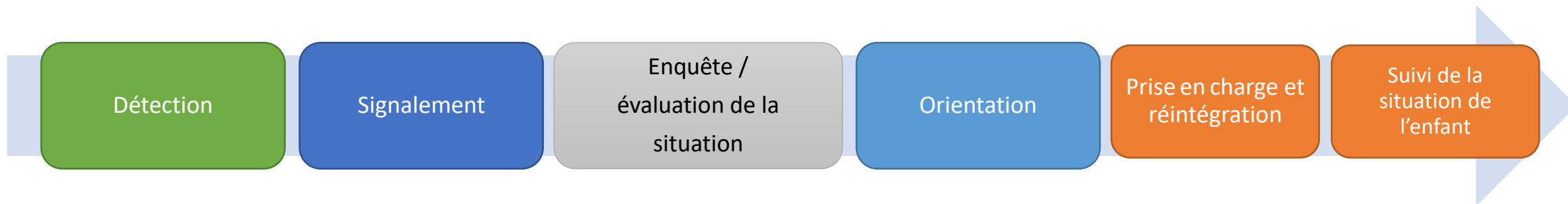
- Prodiguer des services sociaux aux enfants dans leur milieu

Outils de travail et de coordination Mis en place

- **Circuit de protection de l'enfant** a été élaboré et validé par l'ensemble des partenaires de protection de l'enfance;
- **Système Intégré de Protection de l'Enfance (SIPE)**: Plateforme élaborée et testée et sera expérimenté dans plusieurs sites abritant le dispositif;
- Protocole cadre de protection de l'enfance et procédures opérationnelles seront élaborés (une consultation va être lancée incessamment dans ce sens);
- Plusieurs formations et une formation des formateurs dans le domaine de protection de l'enfance ont été réalisées (**contenant un module spécifique sur les enfants en mouvement/migration**);
- **Une malette pédagogique en protection de l'enfance** est en train d'être finalisée;
- **Différents guides et outils ont été élaborés** (guide d'évaluation des situations de danger, guide de cartographie de structures et de services de la protection de l'enfance, guide pour l'élaboration des plans d'action provincial, etc)



Circuit de protection de l'enfance



Populations cibles:

1. L'enfant qui va être protégé via une procédure judiciaire
2. L'enfant qui va être protégé via le CAPE /UPE

Deux voies d'entrée: :

1. L'entrée par la « voie judiciaire
2. L'entrée par la « voie du CAPE /UPE

- Enquête et investigation par l'Autorité judiciaire
- Evaluation de la situation d'un enfant par l'UPE

Orientation vers une prise en charge adaptée

- Les mesures judiciaires
- Les prestations sanitaires
- Les prestations sociales

Suivi de la situation de l'enfant par le CAPE en coordination avec le CPPE



Circuit de protection de l'enfant (suite)

Etape	Description	Acteur métier
Détection et Signalement	Détection et signalement du cas d'un enfant en besoin de protection	UPE, CAPE, Gendarmerie, police, professionnels de santé, établissements scolaires, numéro vert ONDE, associations, Citoyens, etc.
Analyse préliminaire de la situation d'un enfant	<p>Première analyse de la situation de l'enfant (informations de base : identité, adresse, situation médicale, sociale et scolaire, identité parents...) et de son exposition au danger.</p> <p>Transmission de l'ensemble des informations au PMP si danger grave et immédiat ; Sinon, analyse complète et globale.</p> <p>L'enfant peut également être adressé à des services hospitaliers/unités intégrées de prise en charge des femmes et enfants victimes pour des premiers soins d'urgence, un diagnostic médical et délivrance d'un certificat médical.</p>	<p>UPE</p> <p>PMP si l'enfant se présente directement au PMP.</p> <p>Etablissement hospitalier si l'enfant arrive directement à l'hôpital.</p> <p>ONDE si le cas lui est signalé.</p>



Circuit de protection de l'enfant (suite)

Etape	Description	Acteur métier
Enquête judiciaire par le MP	<p>Le juge des mineurs demande éventuellement une enquête judiciaire, une expertise médicale, psychologique ou médicolégale et des informations sur la scolarité de l'enfant à l'Education nationale.</p> <p>Le MP partage avec le CAPE ou les autres acteurs les informations pouvant être publiées sur le SIPE.</p>	PMP
Analyse complète et globale	<p>S'il n'y a pas de transmission aux services judiciaires (ou parfois après transmission de ces services judiciaires), le CAPE ou l'UPE peut procéder à une analyse complète et globale de la situation de l'enfant sur la base des entretiens, des observations et des informations fournies par d'autres acteurs sollicités, et sur la base d'enquête sociale.</p>	UPE, CAPE



Circuit de protection de l'enfant (suite)

Etape	Description	Acteur métier
Orientation	Proposition d'orientation par le CAPE vers les intervenants spécialisés pour les prises en charge nécessaires, après accord de ses parents.	CAPE vers services sociale, médicale, psychologique, scolaire ou internat, etc.
	Par le jugement, type de mesure judiciaire (article de loi) et d'orientation vers une prise en charge précise.	Autorité judiciaire, via la prononciation d'une mesure.



Circuit de protection de l'enfant (suite)

Etape	Description	Acteur métier
Prise en charge	Prise en charge sociale	Ensemble des acteurs de la prise en charge sociale
	Réinsertion dans le système de l'éducation et de la formation professionnelle	Ensemble des acteurs de réinsertion dans le système de l'éducation et de la formation professionnelle
	Prise en charge médicale et/ou psychologique	Ensemble des acteurs de la prise en charge médicale / psychologique
Suivi	Suivi des enfants placés	Ensemble des acteurs qui assurent une prise en charge par placement
	Suivi des prestations sociales	Ensemble des acteurs de la prise en charge sociale.
	Suivi scolaire	Ensemble des acteurs de la réinsertion dans le système de l'éducation et de la formation professionnelle.
	Suivi médico-psychologique	Ensemble des acteurs de la prise en charge médicale.



Circuit de protection de l'enfant (suite)

Etape	Description	Acteur métier
Evaluation	Evaluation de la situation de l'enfant, en cours de prise en charge (au bout d'une période de prise en charge ou à la fin programmée d'une mesure ou prestation. Le MP peut demander éventuellement une enquête d'évaluation au CAPE	CAPE, UPE Autorité judiciaire (juge)
Nouvelle orientation ou reconduction de l'orientation	Par le jugement (mesure), ou par une proposition CAPE, reconduction ou nouvelle orientation du cas vers les intervenants spécialisés pour les prises en charge nécessaires.	CAPE vers services (sociale, médicale, psychologique, scolaire ou internat, etc.
	Nouveau type (ou renouvellement) de mesure judiciaire (article de loi) et d'orientation vers une prise en charge précise.	Autorité judiciaire, via la prononciation d'une mesure.
Clôture	Le dossier peut être clos si décès ou atteinte de la majorité. Les données seront archivées et ne sont plus consultables.	CAPE



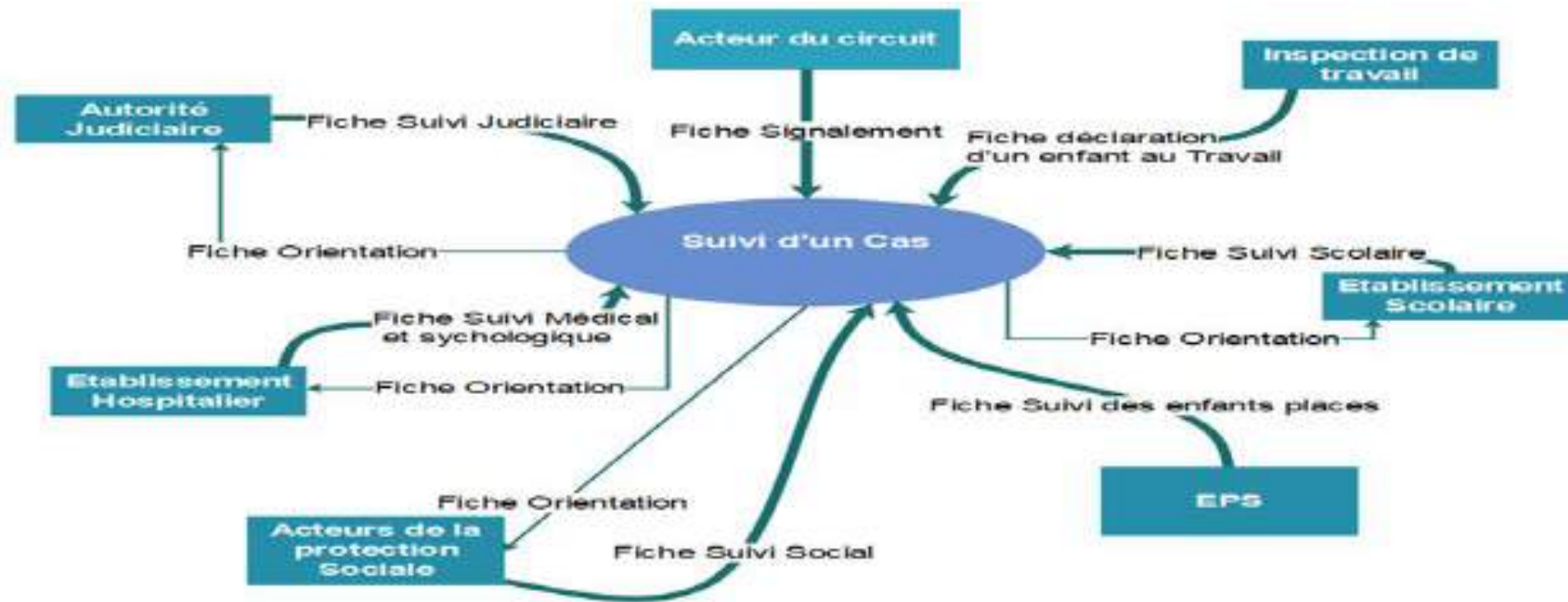
Systeme d'Information Intégré de Protection de l'Enfance

Objectifs

- **Gérer les cas des enfants** enregistrés dans le système de protection de l'enfant afin de:
 - Signaler et Déclarer un cas;
 - Evaluer et Orienter le cas;
 - Prendre en charge le cas;
 - Suivre le cas afin de savoir à tout moment l'emplacement de l'enfant et éviter le retard dans le traitement des dossiers;
 - Clôturer les cas.
- **Suivre** et évaluer le système de protection de l'enfance existant à travers **des statistiques et des tableaux de bord** afin de l'améliorer progressivement.



Systeme d'Information Integre de protection de l'Enfance (suite)



Quelques recommandations

- Renforcement des capacités/sensibilisation des différentes Ressources humaines travaillant directement avec les enfants (médecins, travailleurs sociaux, etc) en matière de protection des ENAS (besoins spécifiques, Comment les aborder, etc.);
- Renforcer la coordination entre les différents acteurs en matière de protection sociale des ENAS;
- Mettre en place un système d'information transnational sur les ENAS



Merci Pour votre attention



Session III: Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC)

Rabat Process : Euro African Dialogue on Migration and Development

Thematic meeting on separation of families and missing persons in the context of migration: prevention, tracing and reunification

Geneva, 20 September 2023



Children on the Move

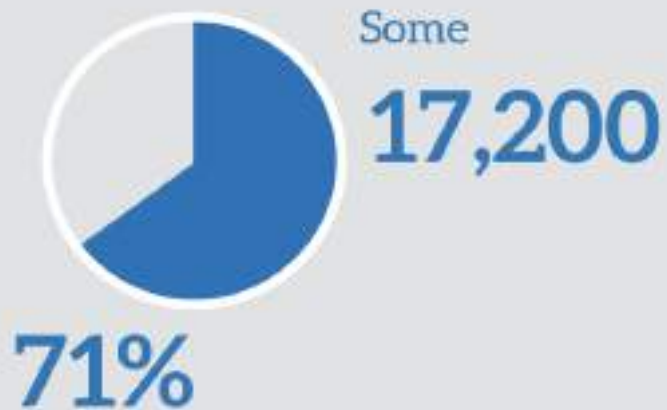


- Unsafe migration undermines the protection of children and their access to support and services essential to their survival, life and development.
- Migrant children tend to be invisible to child protection (CP) systems
- Migrant children often end up living in the streets and being denied access to fundamental services.

At every step of their journey, children on the move face exacerbated risks of abuse, Gender Based Violence, forced labour or forced recruitment, trafficking and deprivation of liberty.

Unaccompanied and Separated Children on the Move

In 2021, **24,147** children arrived in Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Malta and Spain, representing a **44%** increase from 2020



children who arrived in Europe in 2021 were unaccompanied and separated. **76%** of children who arrived in Italy in 2021 were UASC.

Italy: In 2023, 95% of children arriving from Gambia, Ethiopia, Somalia, Bangladesh and Eritrea are reported to be UASC

As of June 2022, there were **11,1M children on the move in West and Central Africa**, of whom 8,9M were forcibly displaced

Libya: In 2023, children represent **11%** of the migrant population, with nearly **4%** of all migrants reported being unaccompanied migrant children

Risks & Challenges



Factors pushing children into taking unsafe or irregular routes **are not addressed**: internal displacement, poverty and negative coping mechanisms such as early marriage or child labour, lack of educational, professional and personal development opportunities...

- UASC have little or **no information** about migration routes and associated risks with irregular migration
- Often experience or witness **violence** and **abuse**
- Highly vulnerable to **trafficking** and **exploitation**
- Face **detention**, sometimes for extended periods of time
- **Xenophobia** and **racism** increase the risks faced by children
- Confronted with high risks of **Gender Based Violence**

Complex layers of intersecting factors (age, gender, nationality, disability, nationality whether they're traveling alone or in groups...and education levels) shape the individual migration experiences of each child, as well as the risks they face

Risks & Challenges

- UASC often face **distress** or **trauma** along their journeys with little support hence with potentially detrimental and long-lasting impacts on their development
- Do not know how to, are afraid to, or are hindered from **accessing** support or national CP services
- CP systems are human resources and time intensive BUT are **insufficiently funded and resourced**
- Lack of involvement of **CP or social caseworker capacities** to advocate for the child in all decision processes, including in return decisions and cross border processes
- Prolonged processes while children **age out** before a sustainable solution in their best interests is determined or re-assessed
- **Immigration decisions vs. Best Interests** of the child consideration

Irregular migration push children into facing exacerbated risks, which they face alone

Examples of IOM's Response in the region



COP 27 IOM-UNICEF Guiding Principles for Children on the Move in the context of climate change

Safe Shelters

Communication tools used by children and youth to inform themselves on irregular migration

Reception Centres

BIP Case Management

Alternative Care

Guidance on XB case management of children on the move & learning note on XB cooperation on VoTs

National SOPs of Children on the Move (Egypt)

Legal & Medical Assistance

Family Reunification & return reintegration

Vocational Training, Language courses, Personal dvp

Migrant inclusive Child Protection system strengthening (Tunisia, Morocco)

Initiative to support appropriate care and reception models for migrant UASC in Djibouti, Egypt, Libya,

Alternatives to Detention incl. upcoming launch of UNMN A2D

MHPSS & Recreational Activities

Upcoming research on vulnerability of children on the move along Med. routes

Recommendations

- 1) End child immigration detention
- 2) Invest in, resource and strengthen child protection systems in home, transit and destination countries, including on family based alternative care and independent living options with appropriate monitoring and accompaniment systems
- 3) Facilitate regular pathways and humanitarian visas and effectively consider Best Interests of the child as the paramount factor in immigration decisions
- 4) Protect & accompany young migrant adults with targeted support and best interests considerations as they turn 18 and as they transition into adulthood
- 5) Take measures to combat racist and xenophobic narratives that further exacerbate unsafe environments for migrant children



Thank you

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Challenges of children on the move and more specifically for Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC)

Rabat Process. Thematic Meeting on separation of families and missing persons in the context of migration: prevention, tracing and reunification

20-21 September 2023

Geneva, Switzerland

Topline Figures

- 3–5% of displaced children likely to be UASC
- Over 200,000 UASC provided with family tracing, reunification and or alternative care by UNICEF in 2022
- Of these, over 20,000 in Western and Central Africa Region
- 63,588 refugee and migrant arrivals by sea in Italy in 2022, including 6,590 UASC - a 52 % increase in sea arrivals compared to 2021
- 12% of all arrivals in Italy between Jan- July 2023 were unaccompanied children (Over 7,700 UASC)



Additional risks for children on the move



Cross cutting

- Migration mostly intra-regional, yet focus on outward migration
- Siloed approach e.g., child labor, anti-trafficking as opposed to holistic CP response
- Transnational agreements to be made operational at practitioners' level

Sustainable Solutions in the Best Interests of the Child

- Quality of best interest assessment before return
- Sustainable solution pursued upon return, addressing causes of migration, support to reintegration

Systemic Bottlenecks

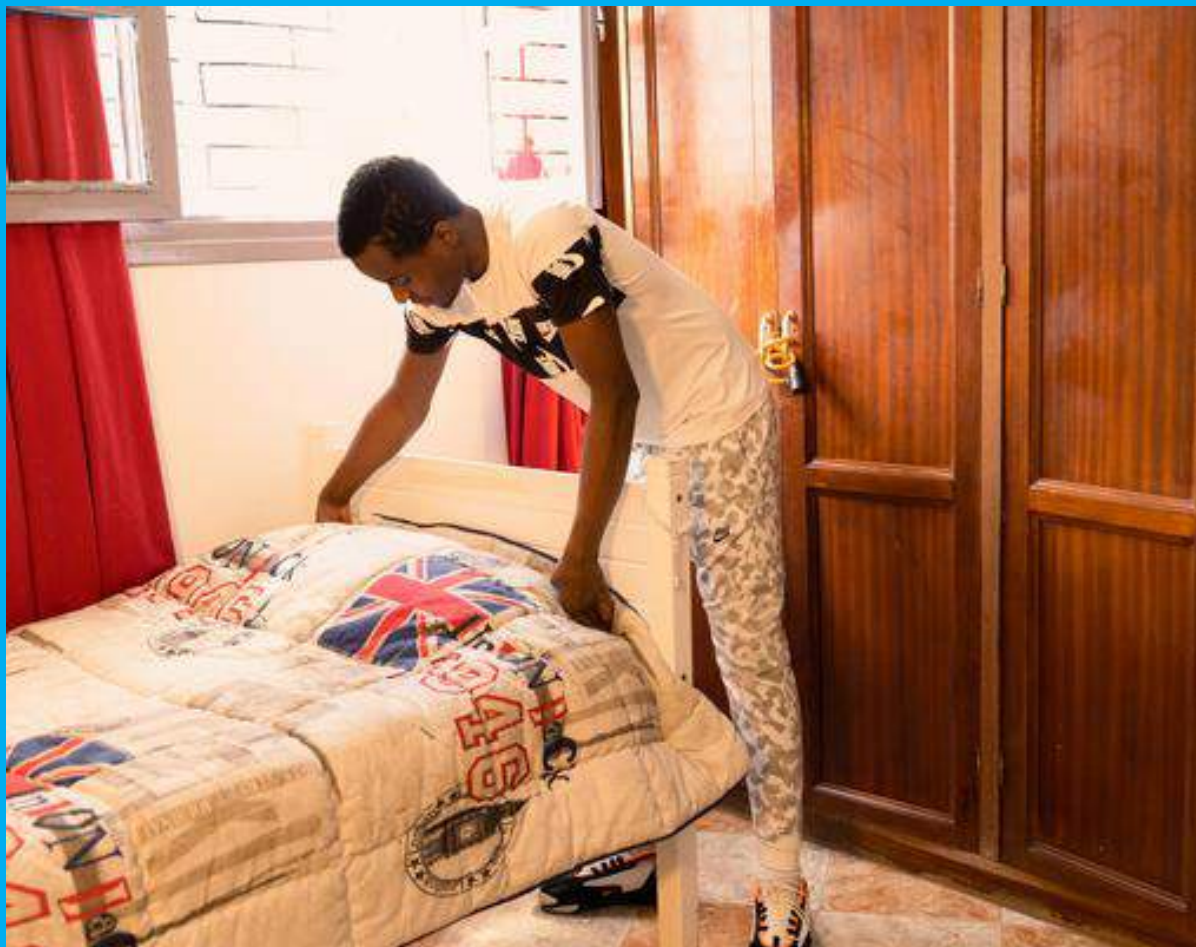
Child Protection and care

- Operationalization of legal frameworks
- Push factors e.g., girls at risk of child marriage, abuse in some Quranic schools, recruitment by armed groups...
- Detention by default
- Scale up community based, family-based care for UASC
- Access to legal guardian, legal advice...

Access to services

- Paucity of services, practical barriers to access education, health... for migrant children

Cross-Cutting Recommendations

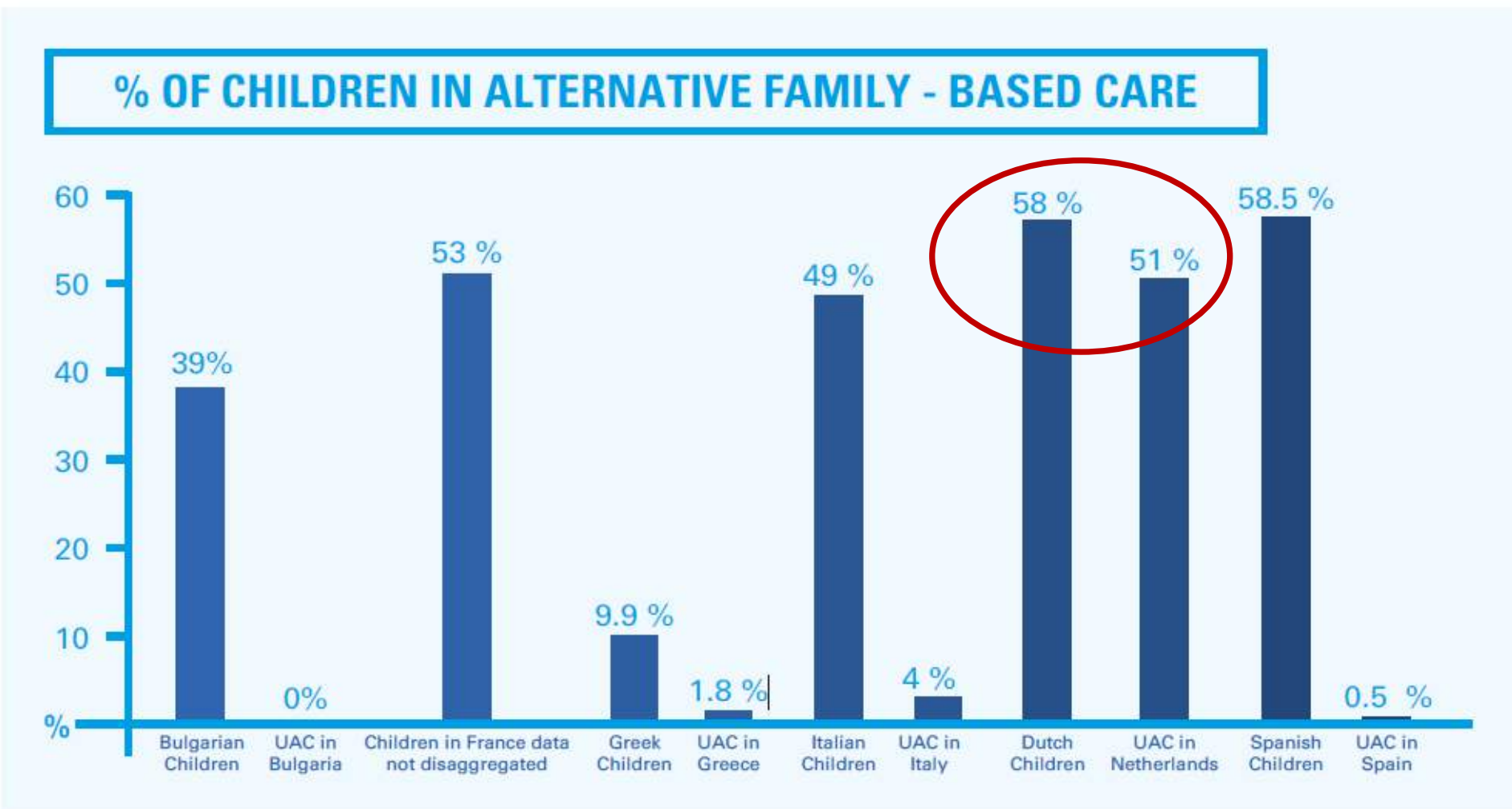


- Consider intra-regional migration
- Operationalize cross-border cooperation agreements at practitioners' level
- Strengthen relevant actors' capacity (*i.e.* police, immigration, judges and legal professionals, social workers, IO and CSO staff)
- Foster regional or bi-lateral cooperation mechanisms between West African Countries, along migratory routes (for example Niger and/or Mali with Algeria, Morocco, and Libya). Mobilize UN Migration Networks
- Adequate resources allocations

Recommendations on child protection, care, and other services

- Research child marriage, FGM, child recruitment, violence in schools... as push factors towards risky migration
- Expand One Stop Social Welfare Services, or equivalent models where relevant
- Scale up family-based community-based care for Unaccompanied and Separated Children, as per the UN Guidelines for the Alternative Care of Children
- Increase access to legal assistance re. protection and migration procedures, right to appeal decisions
- Appoint legal guardians (individual rather than institutional), ensure training and supervision
- Make cultural mediation, interpretation available
- Cost services, and adequate resource allocation
- Free health services for vulnerable children
- Establish bridging learning programs, accelerated learning...
- Language classes

Promising Practices: Equity in Care

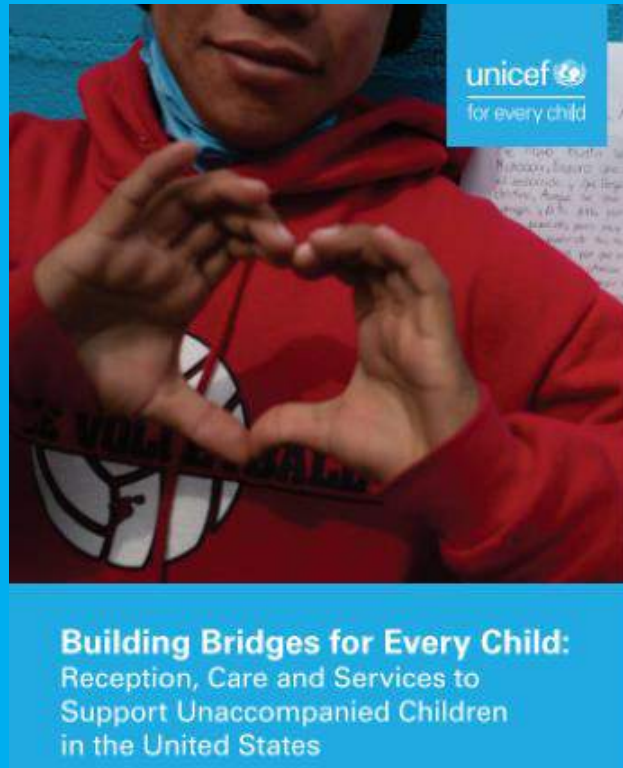


Lumos Foundation (2020) Rethinking Care: Improving Support for Unaccompanied Migrant, Asylum Seeking and Refugee in the European Union, p. 66, <https://www.wearelumos.org/resources/rethinking-care/>

Recommendations on best interests and sustainable solutions

- Timely best interests' assessment, allowing proper individual assessment including root causes
- No return without thorough, multi-disciplinary assessment of family situation that the child is returning to
- Participatory individual plans towards life projects
- Examine feasibility of local integration
- Invest in expanding vocational opportunities for young people

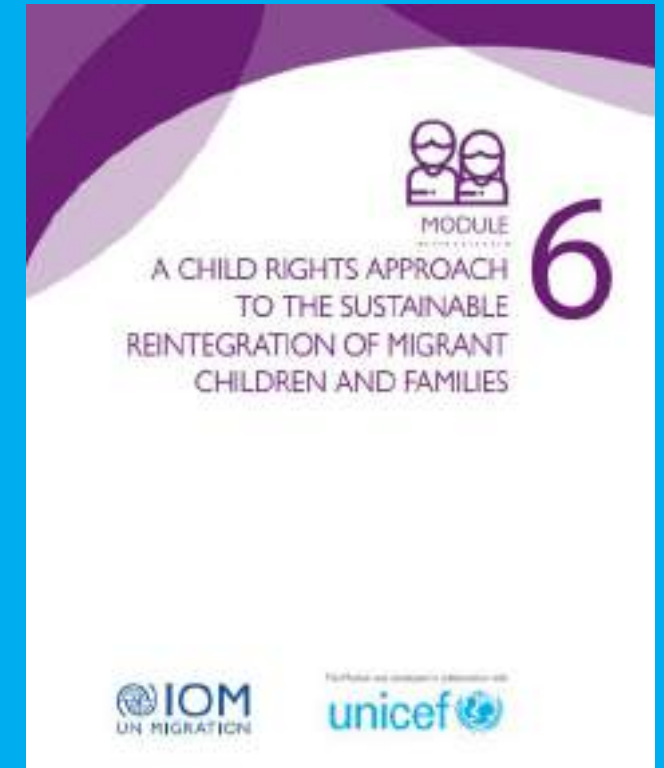
Recent UNICEF Resources



[Building Bridges for Every Child: Reception, Care and Services to Support Unaccompanied Children in the United States](#)



[Protected on Paper? An analysis of Nordic country responses to asylum-seeking children](#)



[A Child Rights Approach to The Sustainable Reintegration of Migrant Children and Families](#)

Thank you.