Challenges in the Search for & Identification of Missing Migrants

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC)

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“The use and application of forensic sciences in the humanitarian sphere, including armed conflicts, disasters, migration, and other situations of violence.”

1. Right to Know
   Right of families to know fate and whereabouts of their loved ones

2. Respect of the Dead
   Protects the dignity of dead through proper management of bodies
PRIMARY CHALLENGES

- Accurately Accounting for Missing and Deceased Migrants
- Properly Managing the Bodies of Deceased Migrants
- Effectively Managing Information on Missing Migrants
- Developing Systematic Mechanisms to Exchange Information
ICRC APPROACH

• Route-based approach
• Prevention + Protection
• Advisory capacity or direct service provider
  - Improve functionality/effectiveness of policies, legal frameworks, processes, and practices
  - Awareness-raising, convening actors
ICRC RESPONSE

THE RESOLVE PLATFORM
A COMPREHENSIVE, WEB-BASED SOLUTION FOR MANAGING INFORMATION ON MISSING PERSONS AND HUMAN REMAINS

THE AFRICAN CENTRE FOR MEDICOLEGAL SYSTEMS
CONVENCING, COORDINATING, COLLABORATING WITH INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

COUNTING THE DEAD
NOW REGISTERED DEATHS OF MIGRANTS IN THE SOUTHERN EUROPEAN SEA BORDER PROVIDE ONLY A GLIMPSE OF THE ISSUE

THE FORENSIC HUMAN IDENTIFICATION PROCESS: AN INTEGRATED APPROACH

CENTRAL TRACING AGENCY
Missing Persons Global Response

IMPROVING THE SYSTEMATIC EXCHANGE OF FINGERPRINTS FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF DECEASED MIGRANTS

Binational Meeting between Authorities in Mexico and the United States
13 & 14 September 2022
Mexico City, Mexico

No Trace Of You
Remembering those missing in our world: Missing but not forgotten.
KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Develop comprehensive/transparent accounting procedures
2. Systematically document human remains along migratory routes
3. Develop transnational search mechanisms for families
4. Evaluate existing datasets useful for identification purposes
5. Standardize/harmonize/centralize information collected along migratory routes
6. Establish pathways for information exchange
7. Ensure strict separation of information from enforcement