IOM’s Missing Migrants Project

Documenting deaths during migration
Missing Migrants Project

- Open-access global database documenting deaths & disappearances during migration
- Extensive data analysis on regions, routes and themes
- Resources for families
- Forthcoming: best practices

Website: missingmigrants.iom.int
Why missing migrants?

Advocacy & Action

- **Countering invisibility** of missing migrants and their families
- Information on specific **risks en route** for programming
- 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”
- **UNNM working group** on missing migrants and humanitarian assistance (IMRF para. 76)
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: 5 main sources of data

- Government actors
- IOM offices
- Other UN/IGOs
- NGOs & civil society orgs
- Social & news media

Data collected by regional data monitors → Internal database → Verification by GMDAC team → Missing Migrants Project public database
Deaths and disappearances recorded on migratory routes worldwide

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Mediterranean</th>
<th>Europe</th>
<th>Africa</th>
<th>#REF!</th>
<th>Asia</th>
<th>Americas</th>
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TOTAL FATALITIES 52,069
2014-2022*

*Note that figures for 2022 are not yet finalized.

Source: IOM's Missing Migrants Project, 2023
More than **30,000 people** with unknown country of origin in MMP database

- i.e. over 60% of all records of people who likely remain unidentified

Of those identified:
- 9,000+ from Africa,
- 6,500+ from Asia,
- 3000+ from Americas

Prevention
- Increasing safe pathways
- Prioritizing search and rescue
- Assessing/revising policies that cause harm
- Enabling migrants, families to stay in contact en route
- Awareness raising

Identification
- Transnational information exchange
- Sensitizing authorities to receive missing reports
- Improving forensic capacities
- Involvement of civil society actors, diaspora networks

Families & survivors
- Protection and access for families, witnesses, survivors
- Access to justice, accountability, and redress
- Informing families throughout ID process
- Dignified recovery, repatriation, burial of remains

Data collection, harmonization & exchange
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