

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**



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)



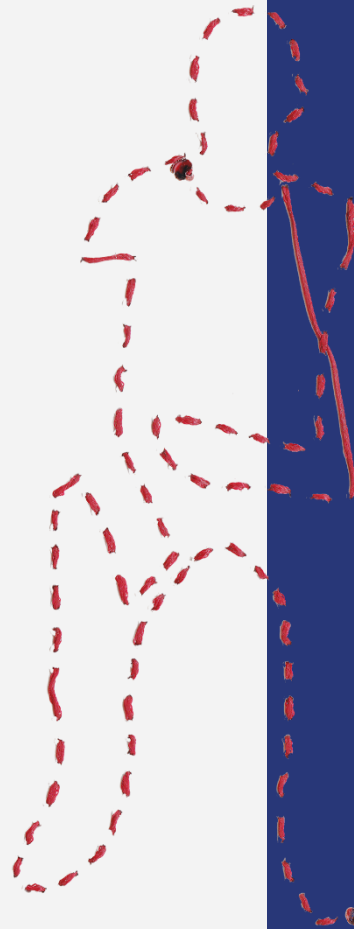
Defining 'missing migrant' in MMP

What is included in MMP?

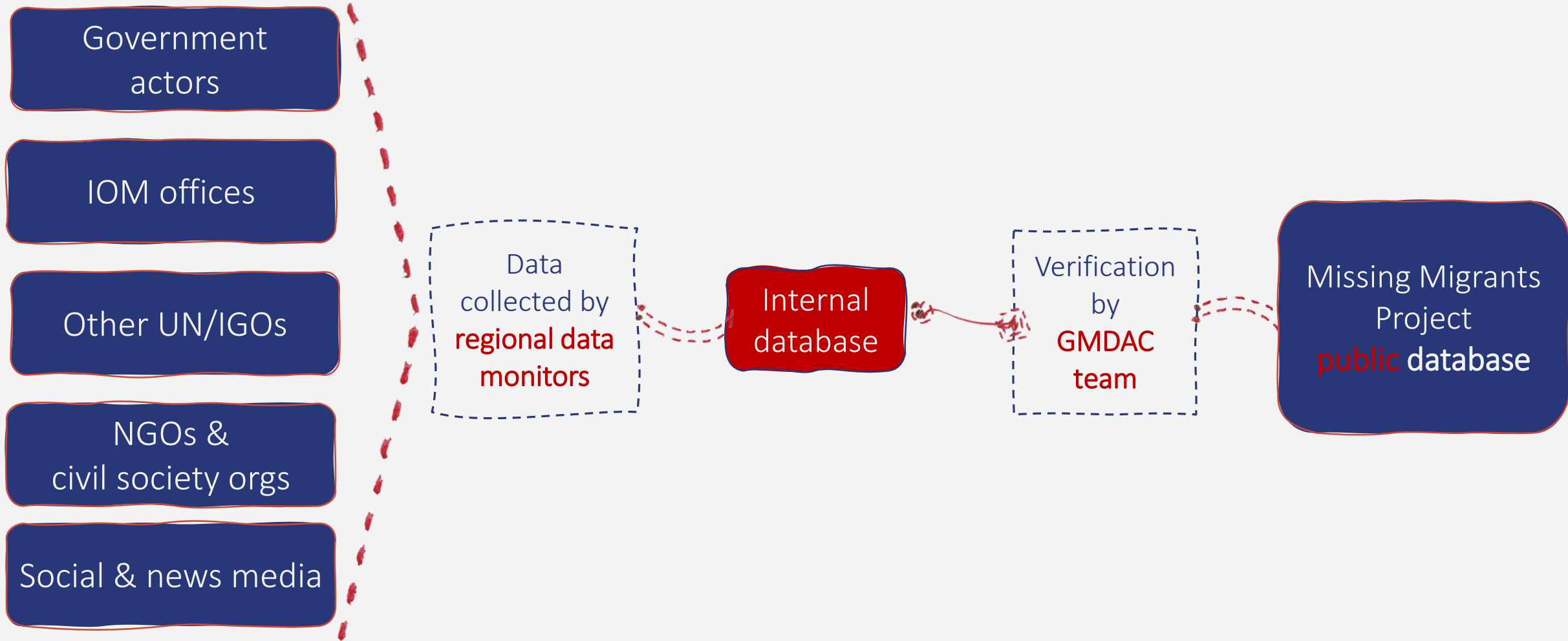
- **Deaths** at the external borders of states, or in the process of migration towards an international destination
- **Disappearances** during migration in which a person is **presumed dead**
- **Rationale**: approach identifies risks linked to irregular migration journeys

What is excluded from MMP?

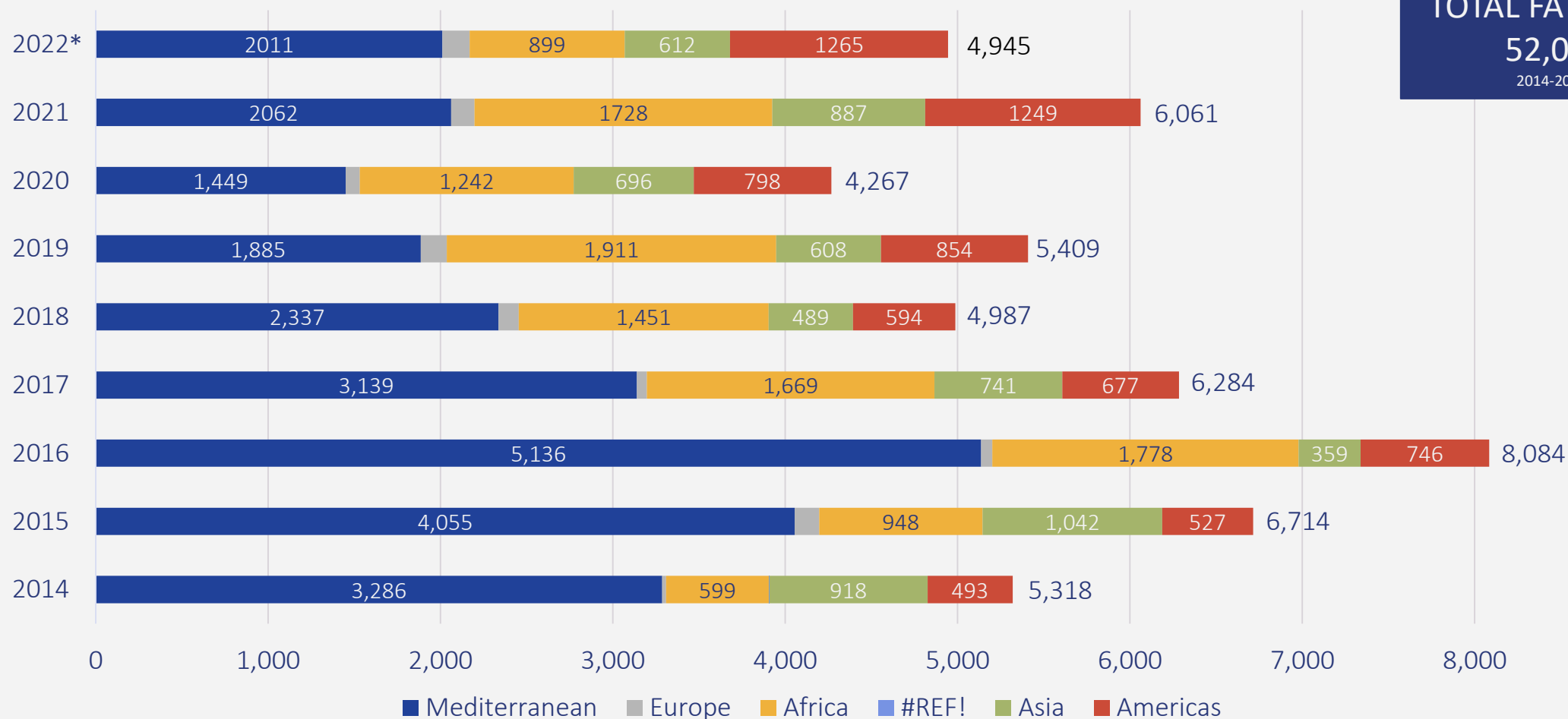
- Deaths in immigration **detention** facilities and reception centres
- Deaths related to an individual's irregular status while **residing** in a foreign country (e.g. resulting from labour exploitation)
- Deaths related to **internal** displacement
- **Missing persons reports** when there is no presumption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



Methodology: 5 main sources of data



Deaths and disappearances recorded on migratory routes worldwide



TOTAL FATALITIES
52,069
 2014-2022*

Countries of origin

- 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

Source: [Missing Migrants Project](#), 2023.

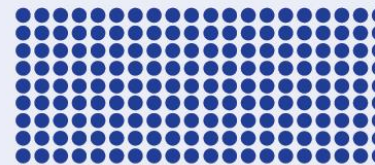


TOP 10 KNOWN COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

● x 10 people who have died during migration



AFGHANISTAN



1,795



MYANMAR



1,467



SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC



1,118



ETHIOPIA



867



MEXICO



755



MOROCCO



702



ALGERIA



653



VENEZUELA
(BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF)



494



GUATEMALA



463



HAITI



451

Prevention



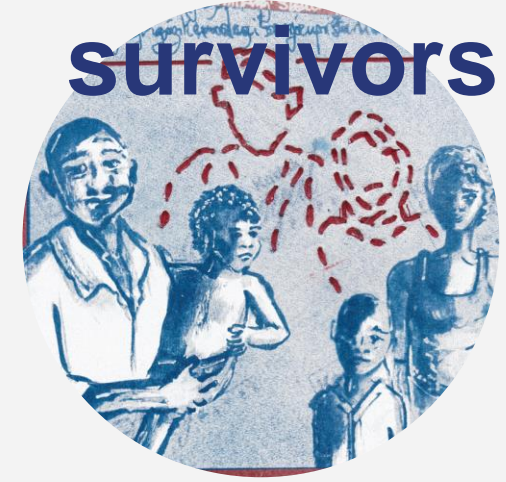
- Increasing safe pathways
- Prioritizing search and rescue
- Assessing/revising policies that cause harm
- Enabling migrants, families to stay in contact
- Awareness raising

Identification



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

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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