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WORKING DOCUMENT

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Working Party on External Aspects of Asylum and Migration (EMWP)

Subject: Working Party on External Aspects of Asylum and Migration (EMWP)
- presentations

Delegations will find enclosed the presentations given by ICRC, UNICEF and IOM during the meeting of the EMWP held on 14 March 2024, Item 2 on agenda CM 1711/1/24 REV 1.

Missing migrants along the migratory routes to the EU: challenges and EU response

Meeting of the Working Party on the External Aspects of Asylum and migration (EMWP)
14 March 2024



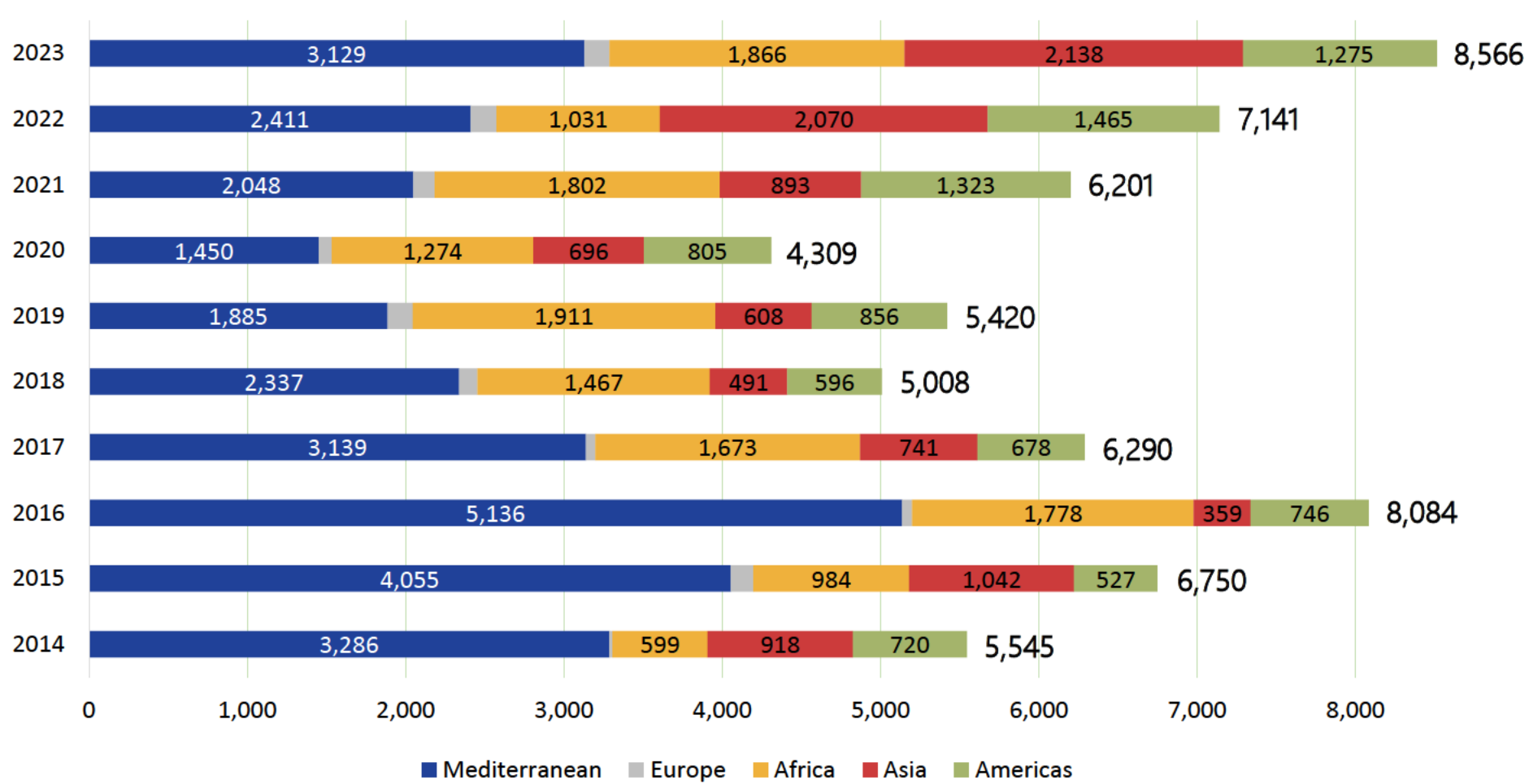
Missing Migrants Project

Documenting deaths and disappearances
during migration





Global deaths during migration



TOTAL FATALITIES
63,314
 Recorded from 2014 to 2023



MINOR FATALITIES
3,485



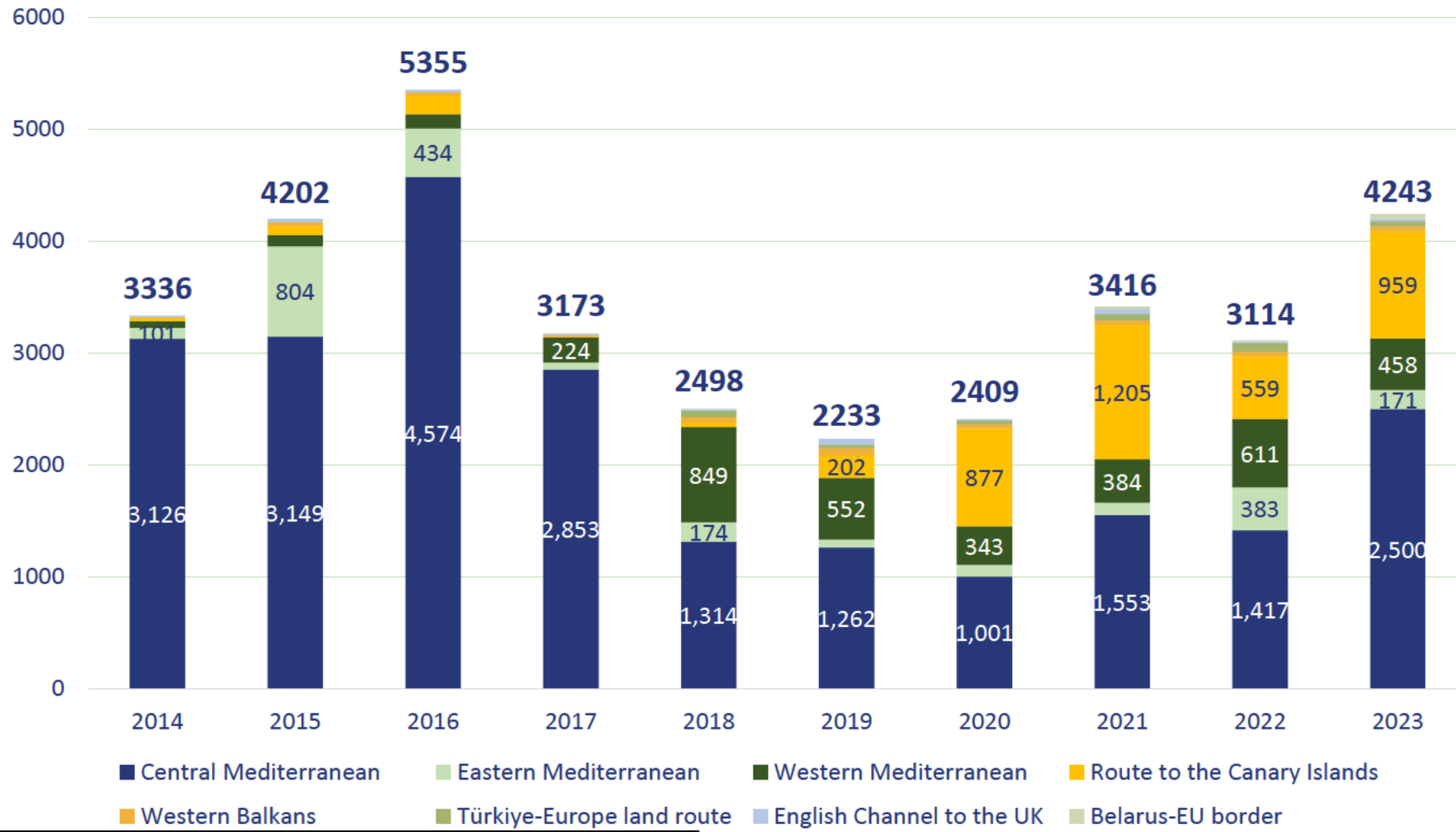
FEMALE FATALITIES
5,474



MAIN CAUSE OF DEATH
Drowning (60%)

Source: IOM's [Missing Migrants Project](#), 2024
 Retrieved on 5 March 2024

Deaths at EU external borders



TOTAL FATALITIES
34,292
 Recorded from 2014 to 2023



MINOR FATALITIES
661



FEMALE FATALITIES
714



MAIN CAUSE OF DEATH
Drowning (90%)

Source: IOM's [Missing Migrants Project](#), 2024
 Retrieved on 5 March 2024

Deaths on maritime routes to the EU

Top 10 countries of incident (2014-2023)		
Country*	No. of fatalities	% of deaths on maritime routes to the EU
Libya	16919	51%
Tunisia	2601	8%
Morocco	2517	8%
Greece	2113	6%
Spain	1650	5%
Algeria	1414	4%
Italy	1258	4%
Western Sahara	1192	4%
Egypt	957	3%
Türkiye	930	3%
All others	1736	5%

* Names as per standard UN country or area name



TOTAL FATALITIES

33,287

Recorded from 2014 to 2023



MINOR FATALITIES

654



FEMALE FATALITIES

584



MAIN CAUSE OF DEATH
Drowning (91%)



[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]



Thank you!

Email: missingmigrants@iom.int

Twitter: [@MissingMigrants](https://twitter.com/MissingMigrants)

Website: missingmigrants.iom.int

**Register for our 10-year event
using the QR code!
20 March, 14:00 CET**





More than Numbers: Missing Migrants & their Families



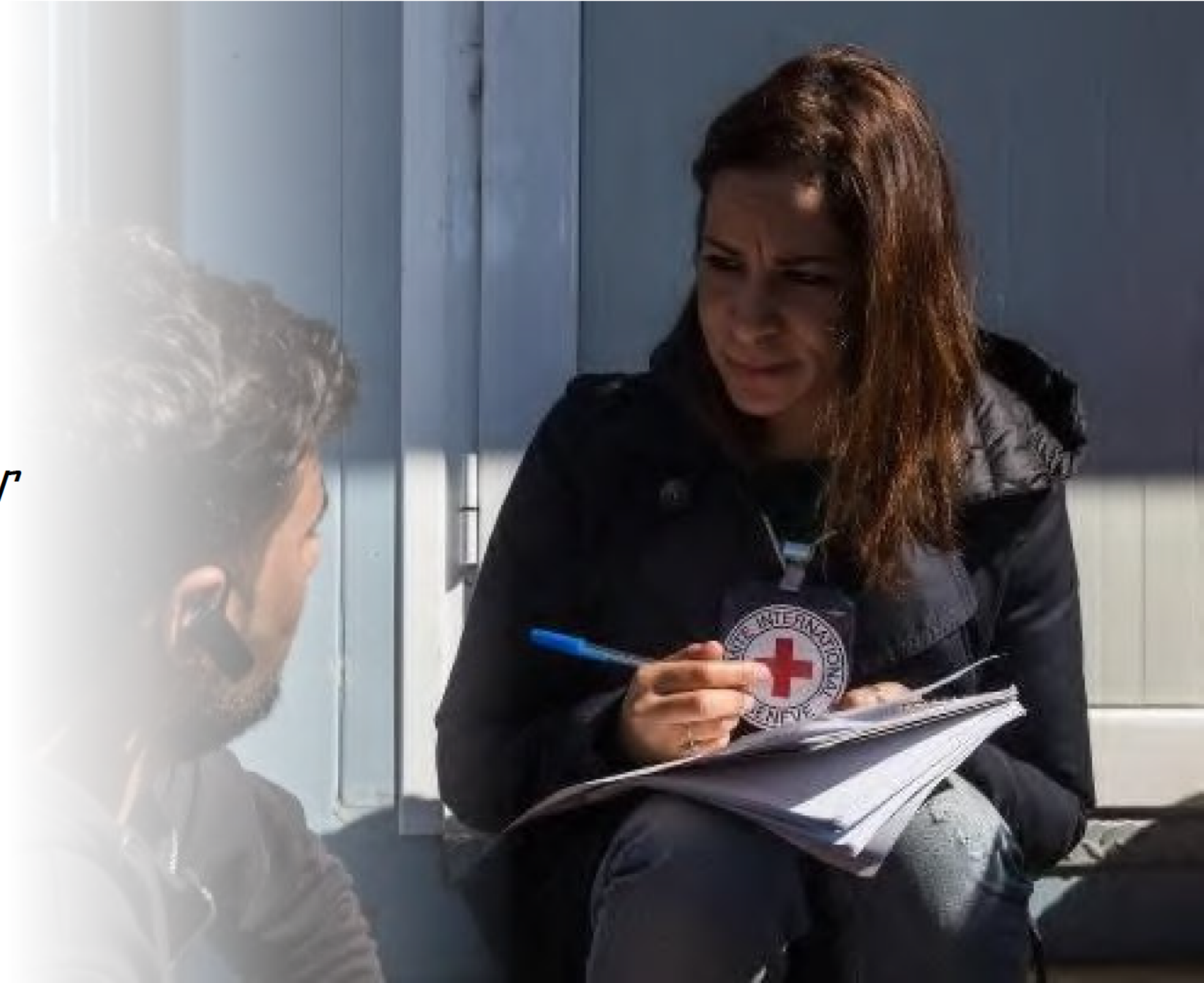
ICRC

"I started to lose hope when there was no news from him. When he didn't call after one, two years... I knew that something happened."



*Establishing clear search
pathways:*

*Who can Martine
approach to look for her
son ?*



ICRC

Search & Identification


*How will the authorities
search for Martine's son?*



ICRC

Addressing the other needs of the families – What are the consequences of Victor's disappearance for Martine and the rest of the family?

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TO GO FURTHER:

- [Missing migrants and their families \(icrc.org\)](https://www.icrc.org)
- [COUNTING THE DEAD - UPDATE 2020-2021 | Missing Persons Platform \(icrc.org\)](#)
- [THE MISSING: Senegal | Young Man Vanishes on Journey to Spain | NBC Left Field](#)



ICRC



THANK YOU!

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ICRC

Children on the Move. Missing Children in Libya

UNICEF Libya

Michele Servadei, UNICEF Representative



unicef 
for every child

OVERALL LIBYA CONTEXT

- Limited Data on Missing Children on the Move in Libya.
- Different dimension of missing children: at sea, at land borders, and through lack of fulfilment of rights e.g. birth registration.
- In Libya: 706,369 migrants; 11% women, 11% children, of these 4% unaccompanied children.
- Children face violence, discrimination, arbitrary detention and child rights abuses by traffickers and smugglers.
- High gender-based violence risks, particularly for women and girls.



“In attempts to find safety, reunite with family, and seek more hopeful futures too many children are boarding boats on the shores of the Mediterranean, only to lose their lives or go missing on the way.”

UNICEF Executive Director, Catherine Russell

MISSING ON LAND/ BORDERS

- **Detention:** 4,345 individuals (**348 children** / 288 boys, 60 girls) detained in official Detention Centers. Unknown number of children detained in unofficial DCs [REDACTED]
- In DCs, children face child rights violations, overcrowding, limited access to basic needs- health, WASH, protection, and legal assistance. Children mixed with adults. No proper registration.
- **Borders:** Over 7,968 individuals intercepted at the Libya-Tunisia border since June 2023. Of these, 462 migrants (including 77 children) held in Alassa- this figure constantly changes.
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- **Impact of Regional Conflict:** conflict in Sudan has resulted in increased migration, and child protection needs. Since April 2023 13,269 Sudanese have arrived in Libya including 711 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC).



MISSING/ INVISIBLE CHILDREN

- Impeded access to civil documentation and discriminatory norms and policies prevent migrant children of unregistered parents to subsequently access services (eg education and immunization).
- Migrant children displaced by Storm Daniel may have also lost documentation.
- The 2021 UNICEF- REACH Birth Registration Assessment found that 69% of migrant respondents had incomplete documentation to complete birth registration.
- Lack of documentation of migrant children leads to increased vulnerability to statelessness, trafficking, smuggling, long-term detention and child labour.
- Libya's is not a signatory to the 1951 to Refugee Convention. This limits services and duty of care provisions for migrants.
- Protection Needs of Sudanese Refugees: Many Sudanese refugees lack any official documentation affecting their security and access to basic services.



“A child not registered at birth is invisible-nonexistent in the eyes of the government or the law. Without proof of identity, children are often excluded from education, health care and other vital services, and are more vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.”

Former UNICEF Executive Director, Henrietta Fore

UNICEF RESPONSE


- Social Service Workforce Strengthening.
- Juvenile Justice System Strengthening.
- Child Protection and Education/Skills Centers (12 Baity spaces).
- Lifesaving response in DCs and Border situations (child protection, WASH, health and nutrition).
- Advocacy.



MOHAMMED'S STORY

unicef  | for every child



unicef 
for every child

Thank you.

unicef 

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Recommendations to the EU & its Member States

Prevention - Take measures to reduce the risk of migrants going missing or dying. To this effect:

- ❖ When elaborating new agreements with third countries or implementing the existing ones, **systematically assess whether they create or exacerbate the risk of migrants going missing or dying and adopt mitigation measures accordingly.**
- ❖ **Strengthen the provision of humanitarian services and increase EU support to third countries for search and rescue activities along the migratory routes to the EU, particularly for migrants in distress, including in the Sahara Desert.**
- ❖ **Improve third countries' border management processes and practices to reduce the risk of migrants from going missing and dying,** Support third countries in ensuring that children's rights and needs are adequately respected and addressed at borders and in asylum procedures and that procedures and practices are child sensitive.

Search & Identification - Promote and reinforce transregional cooperation between the EU and third countries to facilitate the search and identification of missing migrants. To this effect:

- ❖ **Promote and support the appointment of national focal points on missing migrants in the EU MS and third countries.** These focal points will serve as a designated point of contact for inquiries by authorities in other countries with regard to specific cases and will engage in intergovernmental discussions on cooperation or policy.
- ❖ **Foster cooperation between EU and third countries on the search & identification process** including among but not limited to national focal points, medico-legal systems, and law-enforcement institutions.
- ❖ **Invest in strengthening the national capacities of third countries to search for and identify migrants** who went missing/died on the migratory routes to and within the EU, including systems for the collection, management, centralization and systematization of data on unidentified remains **in line with data protection rules and standards.**
- ❖ **Involve consular and diplomatic services** in information-sharing and cooperation with third countries to facilitate the search and identification process.

Support to families - Strengthen the assistance and information support system to the families of missing migrants. To this effect:

- ❖ As part of EU cooperation on migration with third countries, **reinforce the capacity of civil society organizations that support and represent families of missing migrants in third countries,** including in child protection and MHPSS.
- ❖ **Support the strengthening of legislative and policy frameworks in third countries to address the needs of affected families,** in particular through the issuance of certificates of absence/certificate of presumed death, as well as other documents which can help address challenges such as guardianship of children, marital status and control of property.
- ❖ **Support repatriation of the remains of deceased migrants** when identified, respecting the wishes of grieving families and the **issuance of visas for families to search for their loved ones and visit grave sites in the EU.**

Data collection- Promote the systematic collection of data (disaggregated by age and sex) on deaths and disappearances along migration routes with the aim of informing preventative measures and responses. To this effect:

- ❖ Collect, systematize, centralize, and publish **anonymized data on migrant deaths & disappearances,** incl. from mortality records and missing persons reports.
- ❖ Regularly **report these data** to IOM's existing Missing Migrants Project database.
- ❖ Strengthen systems for the collection, management centralization and systematization of **case data on unidentified human remains.**
- ❖ **Share migration forecasting data** across with emergency responders and humanitarian actors for emergency preparedness measures.