

IOM's Missing Migrants Project

Documenting deaths and disappearances
during migration



IOM
UN MIGRATION

GLOBAL MIGRATION
DATA ANALYSIS CENTRE



**MISSING
MIGRANTS
PROJECT**

SDG indicator 10.7.3

Number of people who died or disappeared in the process of migration towards an international destination

Directly informed by Missing Migrants Project data, no country reports on this indicator.

Overview of topics discussed

Context: Migrant deaths and disappearances

- Global figures
- Arab Region figures

IOM's Missing Migrants Project

- Methodology
- Sources

SDG indicator 10.7.3

- Definitions
- Disaggregation
- Data sources

Example



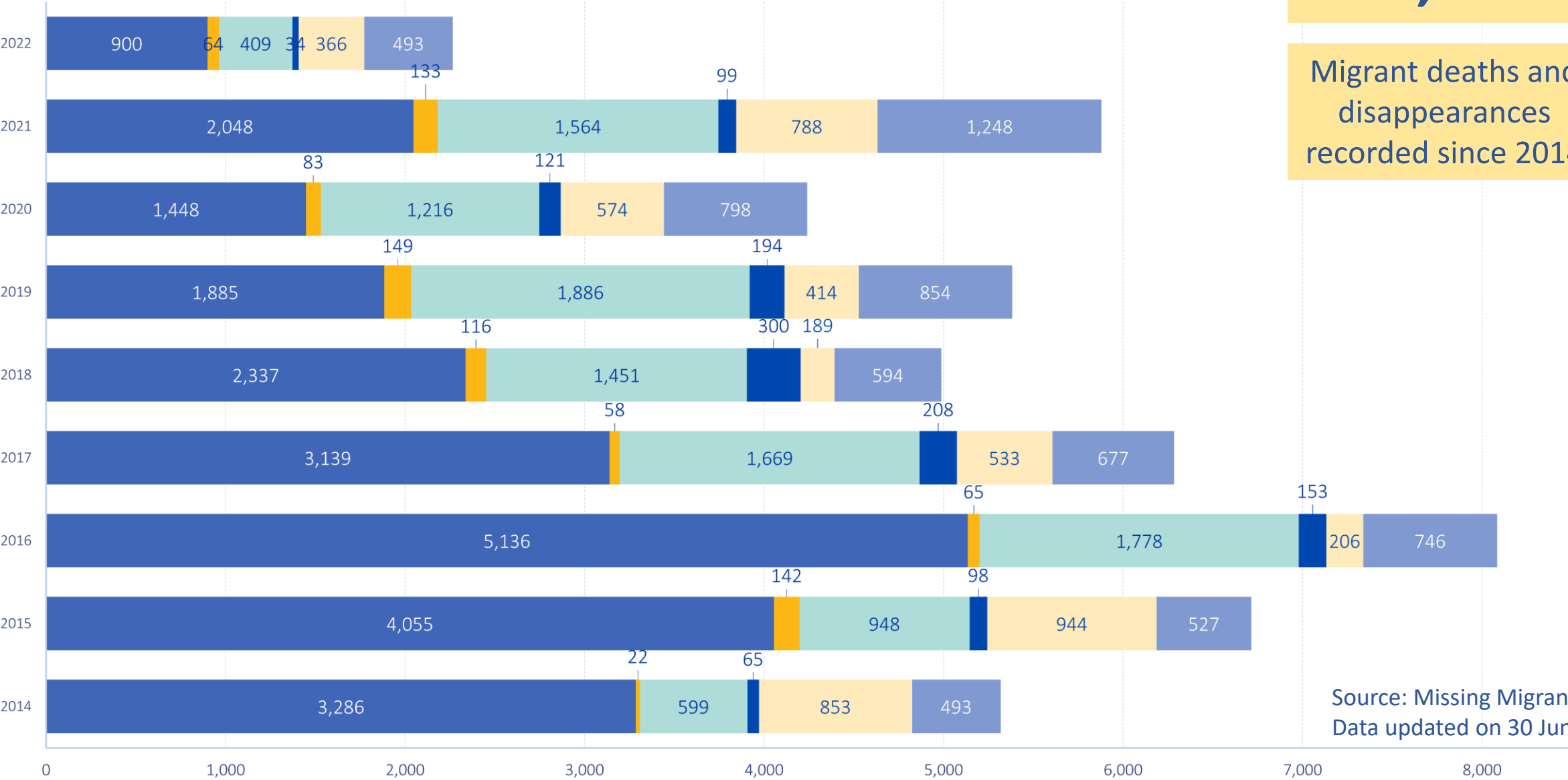


Context

Global and the Arab Region

Migrant deaths and disappearances by region

■ Mediterranean
 ■ Europe
 ■ Africa
 ■ Western Asia
 ■ Asia
 ■ Americas



49,155

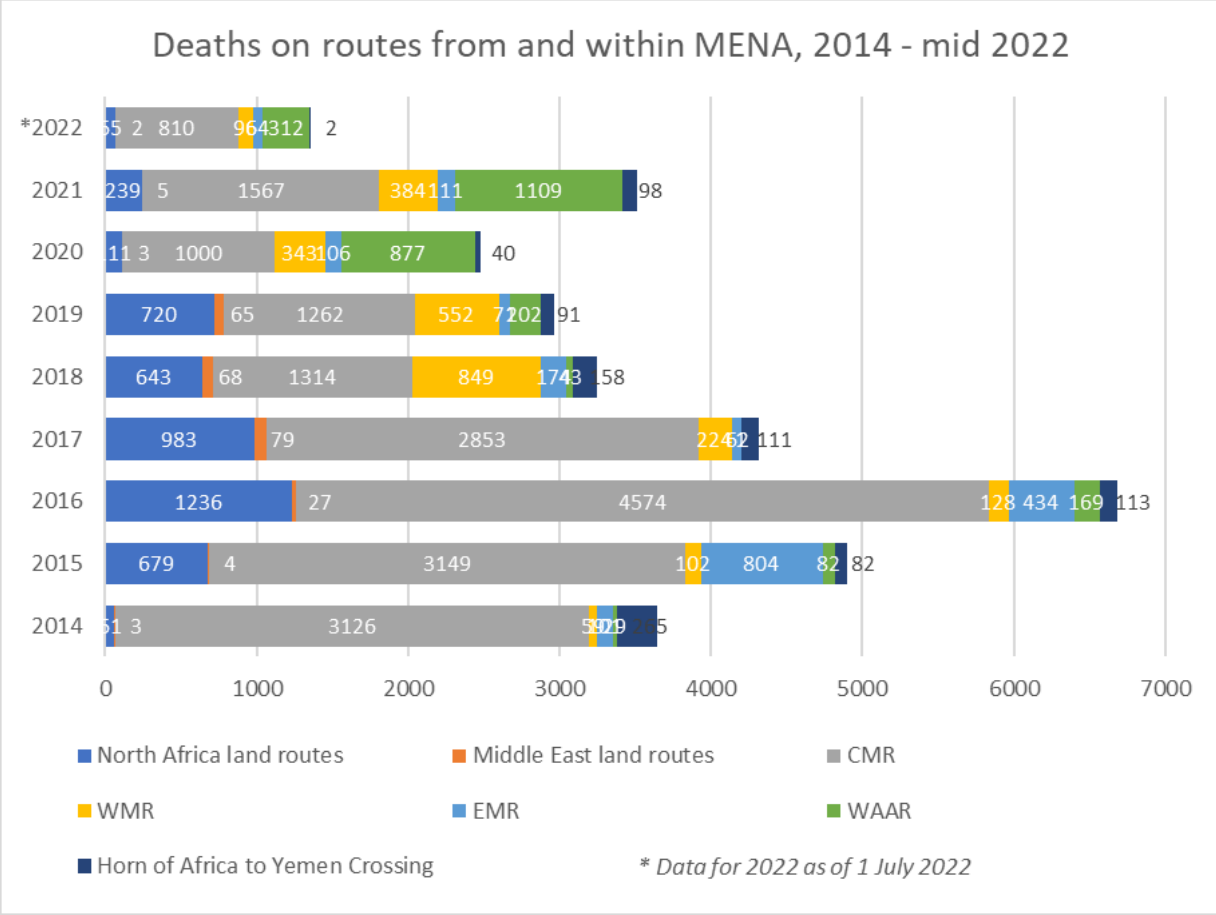
Migrant deaths and disappearances recorded since 2014

Source: Missing Migrants Project
Data updated on 30 June 2022

Context in the Arab Region

Migrant deaths trends in MENA

- Central Mediterranean, almost 20,000 deaths recorded since 2014. Deadliest route on record.
- Route to the Canaries, increase in deaths since 2019.
- Sahara desert crossings, 5,500 deaths recorded but very difficult to document, many more deaths presumed
- HOA-Yemen crossing, very dangerous, invisible shipwrecks

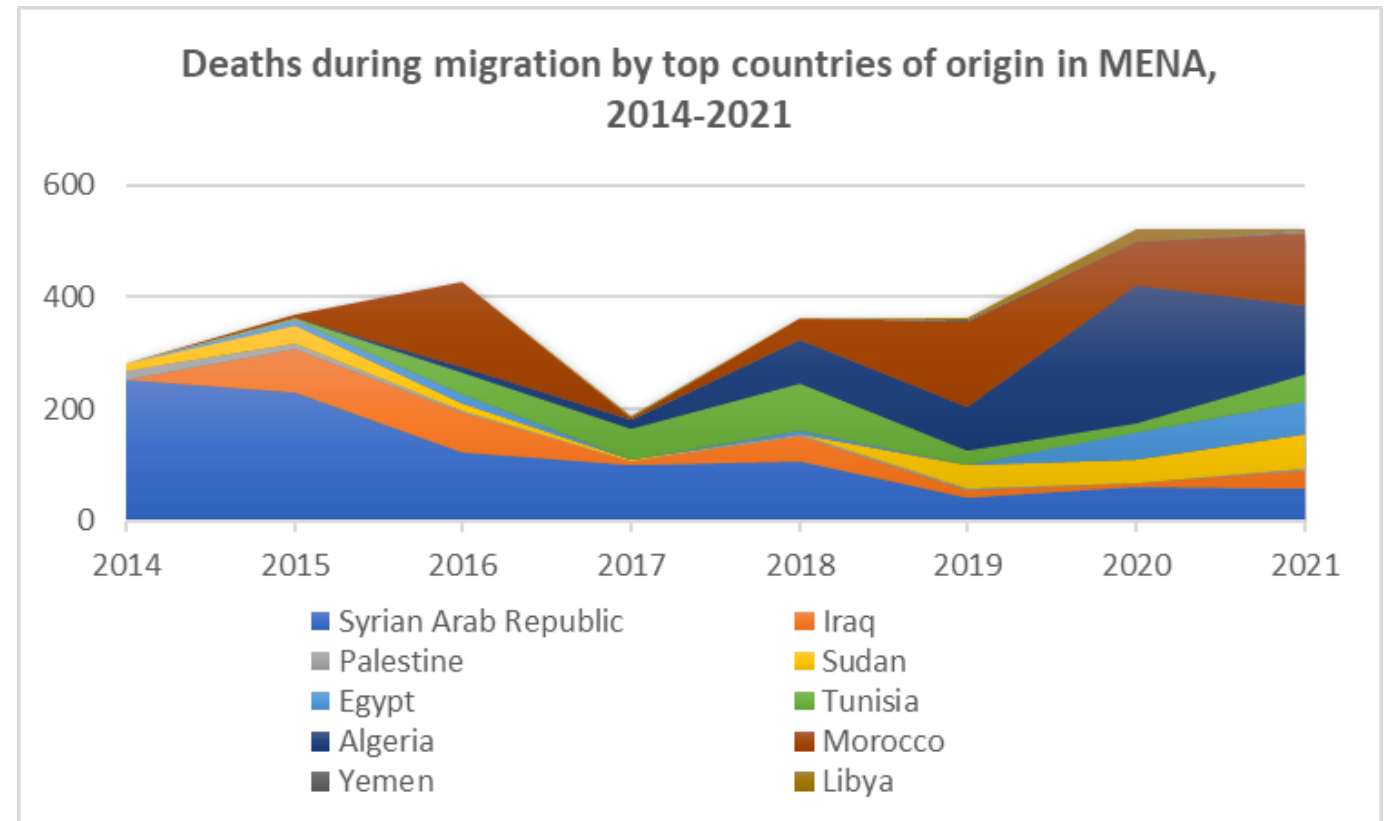


Context in the Arab Region



Top five MENA countries of origin of people who have died during migration around the world:

1. Syrian Arab Republic (973) - downward trend since 2019, new routes
2. Morocco (560) - upward trend 2019
3. Algeria (550) - upward trend 2019-2020
4. Tunisia (272)
5. Iraq (252)

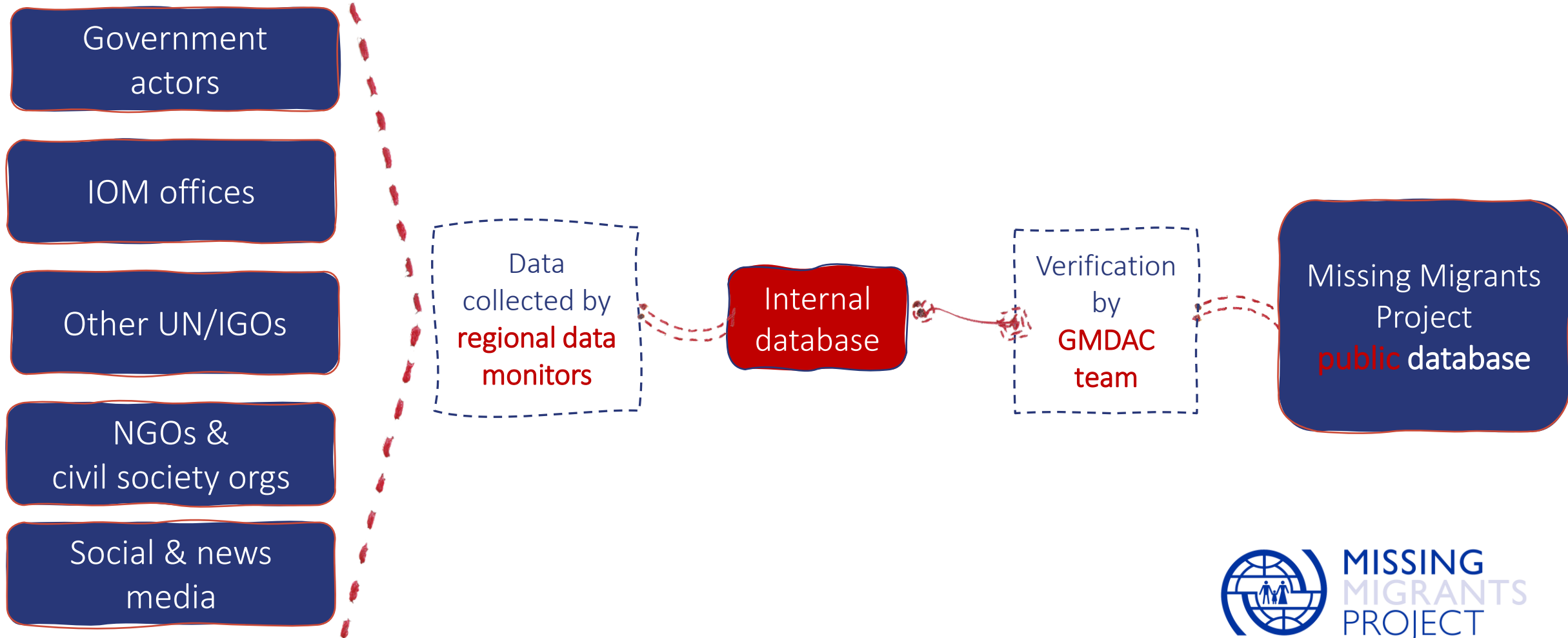




Missing Migrants Project

Methodology and sources

Methodology and sources of data





SDG indicator 10.7.3

Definitions, disaggregation and data sources

Definitions

Number of people who died or disappeared in the process of migration towards an international destination.

- **Death:** The number of people who died during an incident, or directly after, as a direct result of the hazardous event.
- **Disappearance:** The number of people whose whereabouts is unknown since the hazardous event. It includes people who are presumed dead, for whom there is no physical evidence such as a body.
- **Transit:** the duration of their journey to a country different from their country of residence, as opposed to when the person is already established in a country different to their previous country of residence.

Desirable disaggregation

Figures

deaths

disappearances

Socio-demographics

Age (minors, adults)

Sex

Region of origin

Country of origin

When?

Year

Month

Date of incident

Where?

Region of incident

Country of incident

Location of incident

Coordinates

Migration route

How?

Cause of death description

Cause of death taxonomy

Official data sources



Mortality data

- Determine **criteria** to identify human remains found as migrants in transit
- **Good practice:** Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner in Arizona, USA
 - **6 criteria** to identify human remains as migrants in transit
 1. place of origin,
 2. ethnicity/ancestry, incl. surname,
 3. possession of a permanent US address or social security number,
 4. clothing or personal effects (including foreign currency and identification cards),
 5. association with a group of unauthorized migrants,
 6. geographic location of discovery
- Treat remains with respect, **keep records** of unidentified persons that allow for **identification** after burial
- **Make data available** for actors seeking to identify missing migrants (including families)

Official data sources



SAR data

- At sea, conduct patrolling and when encountering an incident:
 - **Registration** of survivors
 - Establishing the **number of passengers** on board versus the number of survivors and deceased
 - Collecting **testimonies** of survivors and supporting means to **report missing relatives and friends** who were onboard
 - Gather **forensic information** on remains recovered at sea or washing ashore, to allow for identification
- At land, conduct patrolling and when encountering an incident:
 - **Registration** of survivors
 - Collecting **testimonies** of survivors and supporting means to **report missing relatives and friends** who were are missing
 - **Registration** upon discovering human remains
 - Gather **forensic information** on unidentified remains, to allow for identification

Official data sources

Eyewitness' reports to authorities

- **Consistently document** a death whenever it is reported (to police, border police, etc.) by an eyewitness, regardless of migratory status
- Including context of death, profile of dead migrant
- Ensure that person who witnessed death gets psychosocial support

Strong and streamlined inter-institutional coordination is needed to report on SDG indicator 10.7.3, and by consequence to inform public policy to prevent migrant deaths and to help families with missing loved ones.

Example: Mexico trial to build 10.7.3



- Mortality records
 - Filtered by nationality
 - Non Mexicans selected
- Detention records of foreigners travelling through Mexico irregularly
 - Mortality records of non Mexicans filtered by most common nationalities of people detained.
- Map of roads & train tracks
 - Mortality records of non Mexicans filtered by location of death
- MMP cause of death taxonomy
 - Mortality records of non Mexicans filtered by the common causes of death in MMP database

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