



[Photo: "Assessing the Legal Rights of Newly Arriving Sudanese to Egypt" Project, Tafawol Association]

FINAL REPORT

Human Mobility Initiative Fund

This report illustrates the main outcomes and expertise developed by seven migrant/refugee-led local organisations, partners in the HMI Fund Project funded by Oxfam during 2024-2025. The report aims to strengthen the work of these seven organisations committed to promoting fundamental rights. The report provides an overview of the general situation of migrants and refugees, the characteristics of the local contexts in which the projects were implemented, and the main conclusions drawn from their activities.

INTRODUCTION

The United Nations (ONU) acknowledges **the right to freedom of movement**, the right to leave any country and the right to return to one's country of origin as fundamental rights. These are established in Article 13 of the ***Universal Declaration of Human Rights***: “Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country”.

At the end of 2018, in Marrakesh, Morocco, the Member States of the United Nations adopted the ***Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration***, an intergovernmental agreement addressing all aspects of migration. The Compact provides a foundation for improving migration management, placing migrants and the protection of their human rights at the centre of Member States' policies and actions, regardless of their status (OHCHR, n.d.).

The Global Compact is based on international human rights law and upholds the principles of non-regression and non-discrimination. By implementing the Global Compact, we ensure effective respect for and protection and fulfilment of the human rights of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, across all stages of the migration cycle. We also reaffirm the commitment to eliminate all forms of discrimination, including racism, xenophobia and intolerance, against migrants and their families (ibid.).

As migration becomes increasingly politicised and people seeking safety face similar obstacles across the world, it is necessary to adopt a global perspective on migration and to develop transnational solutions facilitating the exercise of migrants' rights and freedoms. Oxfam (2024) launched the **Human Mobility Initiative (HMI)** to influence national, regional, and international policies and to promote recognition of migration as a natural phenomenon that can be managed humanely, with full respect and focus on human rights. The overall objective of the HMI was to support migrant/refugee-led organisations, as well as front-line organisations defending the rights of migrants and refugees, in their collective effort to shape and develop a transformative migration policy agenda by: 1) ensuring respect for migrants and refugees' rights and their access to local and sustainable solutions in line with their rights and dignity, while reducing potential conflicts with hosting communities and 2) promoting the deliberate and systematic inclusion of the perspectives, needs and recommendations of

local refugees, migrants, front-line and migrant/refugee women's rights organisations in policy-making. Accordingly, the projects received funds to carry out activities of: 1) research, data collection and analysis on the phenomenon of human mobility and 2) advocacy and campaigns promoting the rights of migrants and refugees.

The HMI invited migrant/refugee-led and human rights organisations playing a leading role in advocacy work to take part in the initiative. This global call was extended to all regions of the world, including Africa, the Americas, the Middle East and Europe. 530 applications were submitted and, following an evaluation process, **seven projects representing global diversity in the field of human mobility and migration** were selected:

- *Investigating surveillance technology that monitors migrants, refugees and human rights defenders*, Movilidades Libres y Elegidas in **Mexico**;
- *Aden crossroads: Empowering Horn of Africa Migrant and refugees for a peaceful Yemen*", SOS Foundation for Development in **Yemen**;
- *Social and legal assistance for people on the move and advocacy on the southern border: Melilla*, Solidary Wheels No Borders for Human Rights in **Spain**;
- *Empowering Migrants for Participation and Ownership in Regional Development (EMPOWERD)*, Fundación Desarrollo y Paz in **Colombia**;
- *Assessing the Legal Rights of Newly Arriving Sudanese to Egypt*", Tafawol Association for Special Needs and Development in **Egypt**;
- *Digital Health Solutions for Refugees' Access to Health*, Medical Rescue Association (MEDAK) in **Türkiye**;
- *NoMore - Monitoring Italian-Tunisian border practices*, Mem.med Memoria Mediterranea ETS in **Italy and Tunisia**;

The report is divided into four chapters. The **first chapter** provides an overview of migration worldwide, based on official data from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). It also highlights details on the fundamental right to freedom of movement, focusing on the drivers of migration and the benefits it brings, as outlined in the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. The **second chapter** describes the dynamics of human mobility in each country participating in the HMI, defining the characteristics of migrant populations and the types of human mobility involved. This chapter also explains how each organisation interpreted and addressed migration in its local context. The **third chapter** illustrates the activities carried out by each organisation involved in the HMI and outlines the main results. The outcomes emerged thanks to the strategic alliances, publications, statements, advocacy, workshops, legal support, research and empowerment of migrants and refugees. The chapter concludes with a summary table. Finally, the **fourth chapter** presents the results achieved during the implementation of the HMI, pointing out the main lessons learnt.

1. HUMAN MOBILITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

The United Nations defines **human mobility** as the voluntary or forced movement of people within the same country or across borders to other countries. The IOM defines **migration** as "the movement of a person or group of people, across an international frontier (international migration), or within the same country (internal migration), including any kind of movement of people whatever its length, composition and causes" (IOM, 2019, p.132). Consequently, Oxfam promotes a transformative migration policy agenda grounded in the protection of human rights.

La migración es atemporal y multidireccional, inherente a la naturaleza humana, que puede gobernarse adecuadamente con plena garantía de los derechos humanos fundamentales y como oportunidad para lograr un desarrollo humano y sostenible. Todas las personas migrantes, independientemente del correspondiente marco legal nacional, están amparadas por el derecho internacional humanitario y el de los derechos humanos, incluyendo el principio de no discriminación (Oxfam Intermón, 2020, p.2)¹.

The IOM *World Migration Report (2024)* reveals that in 2020 there were **281 million international migrants worldwide**, equal to 3.6% of the global population. Among them were 135 million women (3.5% of the world's female population), 146 million men (3.7% of the world's male population) and 28 million children (1.4% of the world's child population). In addition, the IOM declared that, in 2019, there were 169 million migrant workers. In 2024 at least 8,938 people died on migration routes worldwide.

Several factors lead people to leave their places of origin and migrate in search of a dignified life, whether voluntarily or forcibly. Mobility thus becomes a means of seeking justice and new opportunities.

(...) migration and/or staying in place as part of strategies developed by individuals to bridge the gap between their aspirations and constrained capabilities. While migration is rarely a "free" choice, it is nonetheless an active and rational response to the conditions imposed by global systems. Migrants are often involved in cost-benefit calculations, weighing the "costs" of staying versus moving—costs that extend beyond the economic to include social, emotional, and existential dimensions. The lack of choices facing people who cannot move or cannot stay can be described as a mobility injustice: the uneven access to mobility and choice experienced by different groups at varying levels, based on race,

¹ English translation. Migration is a timeless and multidirectional phenomenon inherent to human nature. It can be managed effectively with full respect of fundamental human rights and seen as an opportunity to achieve human and sustainable development. All migrants, regardless of national legal frameworks, are protected by international humanitarian and human rights law, including the principle of non-discrimination (Oxfam Intermón, 2020, p. 2).

nationality, class, gender, and other identities. Hence, this paper argues for a need to move towards a framework of mobility justice (Aslan, M. Cohee, S. Diker, E. Kirisci, S. Kossowska, N. Smyth, F. Tong, M, 2025, p. 5).

The most common causes of migration are linked to social and political factors, worsened by the recent escalation of conflicts, economic hardship caused by unmet basic needs, and the growing impact of natural disasters produced by climate change.

The last two years saw major migration and displacement events that have caused great hardship and trauma, as well as loss of life. In addition to the conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza..., millions of people have been displaced due to conflict, such as within and/or from the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Sudan, Ethiopia and Myanmar. There have also been large-scale displacements triggered by climate- and weather-related disasters in many parts of the world in 2022 and 2023, including in Pakistan, the Philippines, China, India, Bangladesh, Brazil and Colombia. Further, in February 2023, south-east Türkiye and northern Syrian Arab Republic experienced powerful earthquakes, resulting in more than 50,000 deaths. By March, an estimated 2.7 million people had been displaced in Türkiye and many had been left homeless in the Syrian Arab Republic (IOM, 2024, p.3).

The factors driving people to migrate have a number of causes, including issues associated with: 1) **Social and political factors:** “Persecution because of one’s ethnicity, religion, race, politics or culture can push people to leave their country. A major factor is war, conflict, government persecution or there being a significant risk of them” (European Parliament, 2020). 2) **Demographic and economic factors:** “related to poor labour standards, high unemployment and the overall health of a country’s economy. Pull factors include higher wages, better employment opportunities, a higher standard of living and educational opportunities” (ibid.). 3) **Environmental factors:** “people flee natural disasters, such as floods, hurricanes and earthquakes. However, climate change is expected to exacerbate extreme weather events, meaning more people could be on the move” (ibid).

With regard to the economic factors, it is important to note that migration does not primarily originate from the poorest countries, as Mauricio Ambrosini (2019) observes. This is evident from the fact that migrants currently represent 3.6% of the global population, while 10% of people live in extreme poverty. This proves that the causes of human mobility are diverse and not always linked to poverty, contrary to what some critics depict as an obstacle to development.

Anche da parte di chi non nutre sentimenti ostili verso gli immigrati, si riconducono le cause delle migrazioni alla povertà dei paesi d’origine e ai grandi differenziali di reddito rispetto ai paesi di destinazione (...) Abbiamo visto però che le migrazioni interessano all’incirca il 3% della popolazione mondiale, mentre povertà e sottosviluppo, purtroppo, colpiscono una porzione ben più ampia dell’umanità. Tra coloro che versano nelle medesime condizioni di deprivazione, soltanto una minoranza si avventura nell’arduo cammino dell’emigrante. (...) I maggiori fornitori di migranti, per così dire, sono paesi in posizione intermedia nelle graduatorie dello sviluppo: non abbastanza sviluppati da consentire a

tutti di coltivare aspettative di una vita migliore in patria, non troppo poveri da rendere inaccessibili o disumani i viaggi della speranza (Ambrosini, 2019, p.13).²

The IOM defines this phenomenon as **collective expulsion**, “Any measure compelling non-nationals, as a group, to leave a country, except where such a measure is taken on the basis of a reasonable and objective examination of the particular case of each individual of the Group” (IOM, 2025).

Forced Migration

As reported by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the humanitarian crisis of forced displacement continues to grow exponentially each year due to factors such as poverty, armed conflict, political oppression, persecution, war, and human rights violations. “At the end of 2024, an estimated **123.2 million people worldwide were forcibly displaced** due to persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations and events seriously disturbing the public order. **This is an increase of 7 million people or 6 per cent compared to the end of 2023**” (2025). Among the 123.2 forcibly displaced persons worldwide, 73.5 million are internally displaced persons, 36.8 million are refugees, 8.4 million are asylum seekers, and 5.9 million are other individuals in need of international protection (UNHCR, 2024).

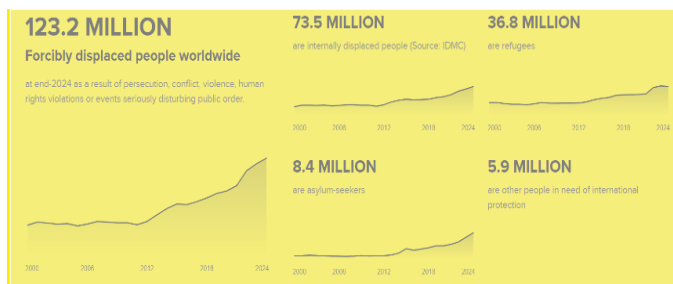


Image source: UNHCR, 2024

According to the **Geneva Convention**, international law protects refugees by guaranteeing their fundamental rights and assigning States the duty to

² English Translation. Even among those who do not harbour hostility towards immigrants, the causes of migration are often attributed to poverty in the countries of origin and to the large income differentials with the countries of destination (...) However, we have seen that migration affects roughly 3% of the world's population, while, unfortunately, poverty and underdevelopment affect a much larger share of humanity. Among those living in the same conditions of deprivation, only a minority embark on the arduous path of migration. (...) The main suppliers of migrants, so to speak, are countries in an intermediate position in the development rankings: not developed enough to allow everyone to hope for a better life at home, yet not so poor as to make the journeys of hope inaccessible or inhumane.

safeguard their lives, freedom and dignity. The Convention defines a refugee as:

(...) any person who "owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it" (United Nations Conference, 1951).

Unfortunately, many people who migrate in search of better opportunities not only face life-threatening conditions and serious human rights violations during their journey, but also encounter rejection, mistreatment and discrimination, sometimes leading to racism, religious intolerance and xenophobia. All of this makes the processes of migration, regularisation, reception and integration much more complex. The nationalist political rhetoric promotes and amplifies hate speech, portraying migrants, displaced persons and refugees as an issue for public safety, crime and welfare³. The Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe defines hate speech as:

(...) todas las formas de expresión que propaguen, inciten, promuevan o justifiquen el odio racial, la xenofobia, el antisemitismo u otras las formas de odio basadas en la intolerancia, incluida la intolerancia expresada por agresivo nacionalismo y el etnocentrismo, la discriminación y la hostilidad contra las minorías, los inmigrantes y las personas de origen inmigrante (Council of Europe, 1997, *quoted in Ibarra, 2017, p.131*).⁴

Political measures restricting the right to seek asylum and freedom of movement are on the rise worldwide. Restrictive processes and procedures are being implemented to discourage migration, causing suffering and violating people's human rights. In addition, measures are being taken to illegally return migrants under international humanitarian law.

Opportunities and Advantages of Migration

Rather than framing migration as a problem with narratives that limit the right to mobility and justice, studies prove its benefits and opportunities.

³ Authors such as Gargiulo, Morlicchio and Tuorto (2024:25), define this attitude as *welfare chauvinism* towards newcomers, who are perceived as "parasites" of the social protection system.

⁴ English translation. All forms of expression that spread, incite, promote or justify racial hatred, xenophobia, anti-Semitism or other forms of intolerance-based hatred, including intolerance expressed through aggressive nationalism and ethnocentrism, as well as discrimination and hostility towards minorities, migrants and people with an immigrant background (Council of Europe, 1997, *quoted in Ibarra, 2017, p.131*).

“We recognize the positive contribution of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development. We also recognize that international migration is a multi-dimensional reality of major relevance for the development of countries of origin, transit and destination” (OIM, 2018, p. 19). Moreover, the IOM *World Migration Report* (2024, p.22) emphasises the **advantages of migration** for the countries of destination:

Long-term research and analysis also tell us unequivocally that migration is a driver of human development and can generate significant benefits for migrants, their families and countries of origin. The wages that migrants earn abroad can be many multiples of what they could earn doing similar jobs at home. (...) Migration can also provide an important skills boost, which can be critically important for destination countries experiencing population declines. In addition to enhancing national income and average living standards, immigration can have a positive effect on the labour market by increasing labour supply in sectors and occupations suffering from shortages of workers, as well as helping address mismatches in the job market. (...) Research also shows that migrants provide a source of dynamism globally and are overrepresented in innovation and patents, arts and sciences awards, start-ups and successful companies. The immigration of young workers can also help with easing pressures on the pension systems of high-income countries with rapidly ageing populations.

According to the **UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, migration plays an important role as a tool for promoting development and addressing challenges such as exclusion, poverty, marginalisation and violations of fundamental rights.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the positive contribution of migrants to inclusive growth and sustainable development. The Agenda’s core principle is to “leave no one behind,” which includes migrants. Many of the Agenda’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) contain targets and indicators which are relevant to migrants or migration. SDG target 10.7 calls on countries to “facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies”. Other targets directly related to migrants or migration refer to the health workforce in developing countries (3.c), mobility of international students (4.b), human trafficking (5.2, 8.7 and 16.2), labour migration (8.7 and 8.8), remittances (10.c) and legal identity (16.9). Further, SDG target 17.8 calls for disaggregating data by migratory status (United Nations. S.D).



Analysing the relationship between migration and labour force, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) reported that, in 2022, there were approximately 167.7 million international migrant workers globally, accounting for 4.7% of the total labour force. Most migrants were aged between 25 and 54 years. Among the overall migrant workers, 61.3% were men and 38.7% were women, mostly residing in high-income countries in three main areas: Northern, Southern and Western Europe, North America and Arab Countries (ILO, 2024).

Men	Women
61,3%	38,7%

Table N. 1: Overall migrant workers by gender. Source ILO 2022

According to the International Migration Outlook 2021, “in all countries, immigrants contribute more in taxes and contributions than governments spend on their social protection, health and education” (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. 2021).

The contributions of immigrants are large enough to fully cover their share of government expenditure on congestible public goods, and contribute to the financing of pure public goods, such as defence and public debt charges, in a vast majority of countries. In 2017, the contribution of immigrants to the financing of pure public goods represented a total of USD 547 billion in the 25 countries included in the analysis (Ibidem).

Based on the *World Migration Report 2024*, the top countries sending remittances⁵ in 2022 were the United States, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Germany, China, Kuwait, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, France and Qatar (IOM, 2024, p. 37). As for migrant reception by continent, in the same year, Europe received 86.7 million international migrants, followed by Asia with 85.6 million. Together, these two continents host 61% of the global migrant population. North America ranked third with 58.7 million migrants, accounting for 21% of the global migrant population (IOM, 2024, quoted in De Andreis, 2025, p.13). The seven HMI projects are based on migration’s contribution to development, the right to mobility, and the advocacy for migrants and refugees’ fundamental rights. The following sections provide examples of local contexts in different countries where the projects were implemented.

2. LOCAL CONTEXTS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN MOBILITY INITIATIVES

The human mobility initiatives implemented address migration management in each participating country, taking into account the specific features of its local contexts. Below we illustrate the highlights of each project and explain how they were designed to support advocacy activities and protect

⁵ Remittances are sums of money that migrants transfer directly to their families in their countries of origin.

the human rights of refugees and displaced persons. As for the **initiatives in the Americas**, specifically Mexico and Colombia, the IOM (2020) reports that South America is a region of origin, transit and destination for international human mobility, with 17 million emigrants from the continent in 2019, accounting for 4% of the total population.

Mexico

According to official data, **Mexico** “es un país representativo de la migración internacional. **Entre 2018 y 2023, 1.2 millones de personas emigraron del país. La mayoría (87.9%) se mudó a Estados Unidos**, el 6.0% se fue a Canadá; el 1.3%, a España y el 3.5% restante, a otros países”⁶ (INEGI, 2024). Most people migrating to the United States cross the southern Mexican border, suffer human rights violations, including breaches of the right to privacy. The current US administration is fostering an anti-immigration policy alongside a strong nationalist narrative that incites hostility and rejection towards migrants and refugees. Human Rights Watch criticises the recent measures aimed at preventing migrants from entering the United States: “1) Declaring an ‘invasion’ of ‘aliens’, sealing the border, and barring asylum on US territory. 2) Mandatory detention. 3) Expansively Deputizing State and Local Police. 4) Using the US Armed Forces to deport, detain, and “seal the border”. 5) Nationwide Expansion of Expedited Removal. 6) Rolling Back Parole, Temporary Protected Status, and Safe Mobility Programs” (Frelick, 2025). In addition, the US government launched the U.S. Customs and Border Protection CBPO app for asylum and parole applications. Its mandatory use generated privacy issues, extortion, and racial bias in facial recognition, preventing Black people from seeking asylum.

According to the Mexican organisation **Movilidades Libres y Elegidas**, the situation is further complicated by the Mexican government's plan to create a similar immigration management application, which could pose the same risks as the one in the US. The organisation responsible for the HMI in Mexico works to **protect human rights and denounce violations of migrants and refugees’ privacy and freedoms**, especially when it

⁶ English translation. Mexico is a representative country in terms of international migration. Between 2018 and 2023, 1.2 million people emigrated from the country. The majority (87.9%) moved to the United States, 6.0% to Canada, 1.3% to Spain and 3.5% to other countries.

comes to women and young people. For this purpose, it implemented a project to raise awareness and condemn the use of surveillance technology targeting migrants, refugees and human rights defenders at Mexico's southern and northern borders.

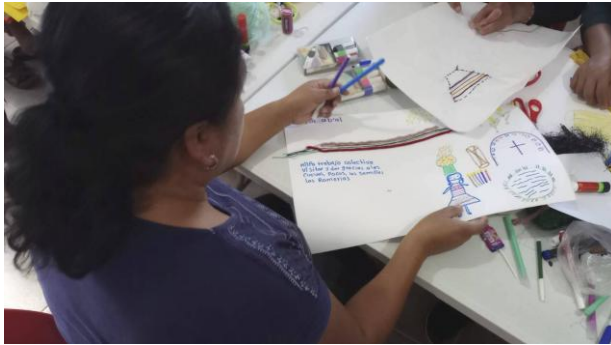


Photo. "Investigating surveillance technology that monitors migrants, refugees and human rights de-fenders" Project, Mexico

Colombia

Colombia, a country marked by decades of forced internal displacement due to armed conflict and violence, currently has 8,925,254 registered victims (UARIV data, 2025). In addition to internal displacement, the country has recently received a large number of Venezuelans fleeing their country due to political instability. The lack of opportunities and staple goods such as food and medicine, together with increasing insecurity and human rights violations, drove **2,845,706 Venezuelans to move to Colombia at the beginning of 2024** (Migración Colombia, 2024). Most of these migrants are either regularised or in the process of being regularised under the Temporary Protection Status for Venezuelan Migrants (ETPV). They are located throughout the country, particularly in the capital, Bogotá, and in the departments of Antioquia and Norte de Santander. To a lesser extent, 42,240 people are located in the department of Nariño, on the border with Ecuador, accounting for 1.48% of the total Venezuelan population in Colombia (ibid.). Given the dynamics of armed conflict in Colombia and the impact of Venezuelan migration, Ecuador is one of the main destinations for Colombian emigrants, alongside the United States, Canada and Spain. According to the 2020 census, 388,861 Venezuelans and 203,470 Colombians legally reside in Ecuador (Statista, 2025). Human mobility in Nariño primarily occurs through the municipalities of Ipiales and Tumaco.

According to **Fundación Desarrollo y Paz**, despite the progress in Colombian policies addressing Venezuelan migration, there is still a need to

strengthen political participation and advocacy in contexts of civic participation among Venezuelans, such as Territorial Development Plans, which guide public policies in local and departmental governments. The Foundation works to enhance the empowerment and active participation of Venezuelan migrants in the municipalities of Ipiales and Tumaco. It also aims to strengthen the competences of migrant organisations in Nariño by supporting the protection of migrants' rights and actively participating in public policy discussions and decision-making processes through research, training courses, workshops and awareness-raising campaigns at the local level.



Photo. "EMPOWERD" Project, Colombia

Egypt

The IOM *Africa Migration Report (2024)* reported that **in 2020, the African continent hosted 40.4 million African migrants**, equal to 3% of the global population. **Half of them, 52% (20.8 million), were migrating to other African countries.** The IOM showed that migration rates in Africa varied by region, reaching 30% in Eastern Africa, 30% in Western Africa, 15% in Central Africa, 12% in Southern Africa and 12% in Northern Africa. According to the UNHCR, in 2022, **about 8.1 million refugees and asylum seekers were living in Africa**, accounting for 23% of the world's population. The UN Refugee Agency (2025) confirmed that **Egypt**, in North Africa, hosts **941.625 refugees and asylum seekers** from 61 nationalities. Since 2023, because of the conflict, **most migrants arriving in Egypt have been coming from Sudan (approximately 410,000 people)**, followed by Syria. In 2004, Egypt and Sudan had signed an agreement on the four freedoms, guaranteeing the freedom of movement, residence,

work and property purchase between the two countries. However, following the conflict in Sudan, Egypt amended the agreement in 2024 and began requiring visas. In addition, frequent changes in national laws on migration management and assistance to refugees and asylum seekers caused confusion and misinformation.

The **Tafawol Association for Special Needs and Development** in Egypt is one of the seven organisations participating in the HMI. **It drafted and disseminated translated and understandable information on recent laws**, making it accessible and easy to understand for the Sudanese community. In addition, it organised meetings titled ***Know Your Rights*** in the Faysal area of Cairo to share legal information with the Sudanese community.



Photo. "Assessing the Legal Rights of Newly Arriving Sudanese to Egypt" Project

Italy and Tunisia

In 2022, Europe received 86.7 million international migrants, followed by Asia with 85.6 million. Together, these two continents host 61% of the global migrant population (IOM, 2024). In Europe, "in 2023, Non-EU citizens were 6.4% of the EU population" (European Parliament, 2019). Countries such as Spain and Italy continue to face migration coming from the Mediterranean Sea. After the 2015 migration crisis, the European Union approved the ***New Pact on Migration and Asylum***, which describes migration as "a constant feature of human history with a profound impact on European society, its economy and its culture. With a well-managed system, migration can contribute to growth, innovation and social dynamism". (European Commission, 2020, p. 2).

According to the *Dipartimento per le Libertà Civili e l'Immigrazione* (the Italian Department for Civil Liberties and Immigration), 89,182 migrants landed on the Mediterranean coasts of Italy in 2022. In 2023, there was an

increase of approximately 60%, reaching 145,898 arrivals. However, in 2025, numbers fell significantly due to immigration controls outside Italian borders: from January to 16th June, 27,081 people arrived by sea. Most migrants came from Bangladesh, Syria, Tunisia, Egypt, Guinea and Pakistan (Dipartimento per le Libertà Civili e l'Immigrazione, 2024, quoted in De Andreis, G. 2025, p.14). The Italian government is currently managing migration outside its borders with a nationalist and anti-migration political narrative framing migration as a security issue. In 2023, **the EU and Tunisia**, supported by the Italian government, signed a memorandum of understanding that not only recognises Tunisia as a safe country, but also establishes stricter police controls at the Tunisian borders in order to reduce the flow of migrants to Europe, particularly via Italy. Between January and October 2022, national military vessels intercepted 30,604 people on the Tunisian coast attempting to reach Italy (38% more than the previous year, and six times more than in 2018). (MEM.MED, 2023).



Photo. "NoMore, Monitoring Italian -Tunisian border practices" Project

In recent years, more than 20,430 deaths or disappearances have occurred on the central Mediterranean route connecting the Libyan, Tunisian and Algerian coasts with Italy, making it one of the most dangerous routes for human mobility (ibid.). **The organisation Mem.Med Memoria Mediterranea ETS** works to **share memory, support and indignation** with the mothers and sisters of victims who perish during the tough journey, exacerbated by the governmental efforts to limit and prevent migration along this route. The organisation's objective is to assess whether Tunisia can be considered a safe country and to highlight the bureaucratic challenges regarding identification processes, the search for missing people and the repatriation of bodies in both countries.

Spain

According to the Spanish National Institute of Statistics, Spain's resident population increased by 82,346 people in April 2024, largely due to people born abroad. Regarding immigrant nationalities, "in the first quarter of 2024, there were Colombians (with 39,200 arrivals in Spain), Moroccans (26,000) and Venezuelans (22,600)" (INE, 2024). Data from the Ministry of the Interior show that arrivals by sea to the Canary Islands in 2024 increased by 17.4% compared to 2023, with 46,843 incoming people. The autonomous cities of Ceuta and Melilla, located in North Africa, are the only land borders between Europe and Africa. In 2024, sea arrivals in these cities decreased compared to the previous year, while land arrivals in Ceuta rose by 137%, reaching 2,531 incoming people. In Melilla, 116 people arrived by land, 30.1% fewer than in 2023 (Accem, 2025). In 1992, Spain and Morocco signed an international agreement to manage the transit of people and the return of those entering illegally. Border controls between Spain and Morocco, located in Melilla and Ceuta, include approximately 20 km of barbed wire fence separating the two countries. That is where hundreds of people lost their lives or disappeared attempting to cross, as happened on 24th June 2022, when 37 people died, 76 disappeared and more than 400 were returned to Morocco by Spanish authorities without humanitarian guarantees.

According to **Asociación Solidary Wheels No Borders for Human Rights**, since 2022, no asylum seekers from sub-Saharan Africa have been registered. Most migrants, particularly unaccompanied Moroccan minors, now face a hazardous seven-hour swim to reach Melilla. Those who manage to set foot on Spanish territory, despite protections under international humanitarian law and European and Spanish regulations, encounter bureaucratic barriers and a lack of reception and integration measures, which violate their fundamental rights and expose them to exploitation. **According to official data, in 2023, more than 5,000 unaccompanied minors arrived in Spain**, mainly via Ceuta, Melilla and the Canary Islands, 116.8% more than in 2022 (Save the Children, 2024). Therefore, Asociación Solidary Wheels works to **promote the social inclusion of people in transit and provide social and legal support to migrants at the southern border, Melilla**, through a social and political rights advocacy programme, ensuring the application of the right to equality against all forms of racism.

- Dirigido a la administración del CETI:

- El lunes 4 de noviembre fuimos informados por una trabajadora del CETI de que las personas de la habitación C1 teníamos que salir de allí de forma urgente para ser trasladados a una jaima (carpa) enseñándonos el espacio con capacidad para 50 personas.

Photo. "Social and legal assistance for people on the move and advocacy on the southern border: Melilla" Project, Spain

Türkiye

Strategically located at the crossroads between East and West, between Asia and Europe, **Türkiye hosted over 7,000,000 documented migrants and refugees within 2024** (excluding asylum seekers), **accounting for 8.3% of the total population** (Worlddata, 2025). According to the EU Research and Development Information Service, **"Turkey currently hosts around 3.6 million registered Syrian refugees, the largest refugee group in the world.** The majority live in urban centres, with roughly 240,000 living in government-run refugee camps" (Cordis, 2020). The situation worsened due to regional conflicts and the 7.8 magnitude earthquake that struck Türkiye and Syria in 2023, causing more than 50,000 deaths and displacing millions of people. UN official data indicate that the **earthquake forced more than 1.9 million people into temporary shelters in Türkiye, many of whom were young childbearing aged or pregnant women.** The disruption of health services, combined with a difficult access for refugees, exposed pregnant women to preventable illnesses.



Photo. "Digital Health Solutions for Refugees' Access to Health" Project, Türkiye

In Türkiye, the **Medical Rescue Association (MEDAK)** works to **mitigate health risks for refugee women through digital health literacy** by using the **HERA Digital Health** app. It also promotes accessible health services for women of reproductive age by raising awareness on sexual and reproductive health, preventing gender-based violence and encouraging medical check-ups during pregnancy. The organisation also collects data on the effectiveness of digital health solutions in providing access to healthcare for displaced persons, generating accurate information to be included in public policy decision-making. According to the UNHCR (2025), since the end of 2024 and the beginning of 2025, "some 400,000 Syrians have returned from neighboring countries since the fall of the Assad regime on 8 December 2024".

Yemen

Situated in Asia, at the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula, **Yemen** is a key hub along migration and trade routes connecting the Horn of Africa to the Middle East. **The internal conflict, raging since 2015, has transformed the country into a battlefield**, resulting in over 300,000 deaths, violations of fundamental rights, the destruction of cities and limited access to food and drinking water. The UN Refugee Agency (2025) declared that "after more than a decade of conflict and instability, an **estimated 4.8 million people remain displaced across Yemen** – many of them for years. Another **19.5 million people require humanitarian assistance in a country of roughly 40 million**". Most refugees in Yemen are displaced persons and come from African countries such as Somalia and Ethiopia. Data from the World Health Organization and the Spanish Committee of the UN Refugee Agency (2025) indicate that more than 7.4 million people

need nutritional support, 2.3 million children under the age of five suffer from acute malnutrition and approximately 1.2 million pregnant and breast-feeding women are severely malnourished.

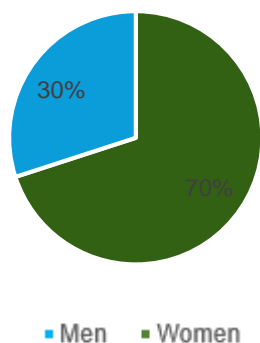
Given the urgent need to protect the lives and fundamental rights of refugees and displaced persons in Yemen, particularly in the city of Aden, the **SOS Foundation for Development** conducts research and collaborates with migrant groups to promote the active participation of migrant and refugee communities. This ensures that their **voices and recommendations are incorporated into the country's peace-building and post-conflict process**. The recommendations aim to remove obstacles to human rights, such as legal gaps, discrimination, socio-economic inequalities and lack of access to basic services.



Photo. "Aden crossroads: Empowering Horn of Africa Migrant and Refugees for a peaceful Yemen" Project

3. MAIN RESULTS AND BENEFITS OF THE HUMAN MOBILITY INITIATIVES

The initiatives described above made significant contributions to protecting the rights of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers. They also fostered their active participation and empowerment by raising awareness of their social, economic, political and reproductive rights, and by supporting them in public policy-making, public outcry, **advocacy** and collective memory processes. **The initiatives directly benefitted over 2,700 people in human mobility contexts.** Among these, approximately **70%, equivalent to 1,890**, were young and adult **women**.



More than 50 workshops were designed⁷ to share information on their rights, provide updates on current laws concerning human mobility in the HMI countries, and set up focus groups to collect data on the conditions of migrants and refugees. Participants contributed to the development of public policies and took part in large-scale informative sessions on reproductive health and rights. **In Türkiye, the initiative indirectly reached 82,500 family members** of migrants and refugees. Thanks to the collection and analysis of data on the situation of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers across the 8 countries involved, **approximately 94 documents and publications** were produced. These included research reports, reference tools, joint statements, notices, maps showing data on migration routes and controls, academic articles, podcasts, apps containing key information on reproductive health, infographics and social media posts. Furthermore, the HMI granted participation in academic events, thus disseminating accurate information on the systematic violation and defence of migrants and refugees' human rights.

In addition, the organisations that implemented the initiatives established **more than 46 strategic alliances and coordination projects** with local

⁷ The HMI organised workshops in Mexico, Colombia, Spain, Türkiye and Egypt.

public bodies, local cooperation agencies, civil society organisations defending migrants and their rights, universities and media. This facilitated the **dissemination of content on social media** and the organisations' digital platforms, **reaching over 250,000 people and generating 72,282 interactions and reactions.**



Photo. "Aden crossroads: Empowering Horn of Africa Migrant and Refugees for a peaceful Yemen" Project

Active Participation

The involvement of migrants and refugees in the human mobility initiatives strengthened their active participation, incorporating their voices and demands in the defence of their rights and the fulfilment of their basic needs. **Direct contact with migrants also enabled the collection of first-hand information.** In Mexico, the organisation **Movilidades Libres y Elegidas** held workshops to discover the apps used by migrants and educate them on digital security strategies to prevent privacy violations. In Colombia, **Fundación Desarrollo y Paz** organised workshops to promote political engagement and strengthen the dialogue between migrant organisations and local governments in Ipiales and Tumaco, laying the foundations for including migrants in Territorial Development Plans (PDT).

In Melilla, Spain, **Solidary Wheels** carried out workshops that provided legal advice to migrants and emphasised the importance of ensuring equal rights and combating racism in migration policies. In Türkiye, **MEDAK's** workshops brought together young refugee women to raise awareness

about their sexual and reproductive rights, prevent gender-based violence, and distribute over 1,311 hygiene and sanitary kits. In Egypt, the **Tafawol Association for Special Needs and Development** arranged legal counselling sessions titled *Know Your Rights*, providing accessible and updated legal information on migration for Sudanese participants.



Photo. "Investigating surveillance technology that monitors migrants, refugees and human rights de-fenders" Project, Mexico

Advocacy Actions for Human Rights and Inclusion

The organisations involved in the HMI conducted **surveys and semi-structured interviews to gather information** and facilitate data collection and analysis in order to support advocacy activities focused on human mobility, the defence of human rights and the reporting of violations experienced by migrants and refugees throughout migration and asylum application procedures. One example is the **EMPOWERD** Project in Colombia, in which Fundación Desarrollo y Paz proposed a tool titled *Assessment of the participation, needs and intentions of the migrant community in territorial development processes*, primarily targeting migrant women. In Mexico, under the "**Investigating surveillance technology that monitors migrants, refugees and human rights defenders**" Project, the organisation Movilidades Libres y Elegidas conducted interviews with 31 human rights defenders to gather information on protective measures against surveillance practices during human mobility processes. In Yemen, the "**Aden crossroads: Empowering Horn of Africa Migrant and refugees for a**

peaceful Yemen” Project by the SOS Foundation for Development resulted in a research study, using surveys to collect and analyse the challenges faced by migrants and refugees.

Updated information and structured data enabled the **drafting of papers and research reports**. In Spain, the **“Social and legal assistance for people on the move and advocacy on the southern border: Melilla”** Project by Solidary Wheels produced the publication *El precio de los derechos: excepcionalidad y burocratización* (The Price of Rights: Exceptionalism and Bureaucratic Repression), which shed light on mechanisms of administrative repression. In the **“NoMore”** Project in Italy and Tunisia, transnational ethnographic and legal research led to monthly publications on the Mem.Med portal *Resistenze ai Confini* (Resistance at the Borders). In Egypt, the **“Assessing the Legal Rights of Newly Arriving Sudanese to Egypt”** Project by Tafawol, in collaboration with the Centre for Migration and Refugee Studies of the American University in Cairo, provided accurate and up-to-date information on laws affecting migrants and refugees.

Some initiatives worked to **amplify the voices and disseminate the opinions of migrants and refugees in public policy-making**, aiming to foster informed and democratic decision-making in national and local governments. The main outcome of the **Yemen** Project was a set of recommendations that incorporated migrant and refugee perspectives into the country's peace and reconstruction processes. Similarly, in **Colombia**, the views of Colombian and Venezuelan migrants were integrated into the Local Development Plans of Tumaco and Ipiales.



Photo. “EMPOWERD” Project, Colombia

Other project goals included the creation of informative materials such as maps, press releases and **public statements to denounce human rights and international law violations in human mobility contexts**. The

maps and reports resulting from the **Mexican initiative identify and condemn** the presence of signal jammers, suspicious networks, telephone surveillance, cameras, scanners, organised crime, network disruptions and drones, all of which violate migrants' rights to privacy and free movement. The **Med.med's Project in Italy and Tunisia** emerged from the need to report violations of fundamental rights along the central Mediterranean migration route. It documented border control practices, collected data on shipwrecks, refoulements and deaths at sea. It also denounced the effects of the EU externalisation policies and contested Tunisia's designation as a "safe third country" for migration cooperation. **The initiative in Spain** advocated for equal rights and fought racism, by co-participating in the drafting of reports such as the one on "bureaucratic repression" at Spain's southern border and by issuing public statements highlighting instances of inequality, exclusion and racism experienced by migrants and refugees in Melilla.



Photo. "Social and legal assistance for people on the move and advocacy on the southern border: Melilla" Project, Spain

Strategic Alliances and Coordination Projects

As for the **alliances and contacts established during the implementation of the HMI**, partnerships with local actors from the public sector, the media and civil society proved to be crucial in order to increase the impact of the initiatives' actions. In Mexico, **Movilidades Libres y Elegidas** contacted 31 human rights organisations to gather information on the digital surveillance of migrants and refugees at the southern Mexican border. Movilidades Libres y Elegidas then used the data collected to enrich its surveillance maps of the southern border. In Italy and Tunisia, **Mem.Med** held

meetings with institutions such as the Public Prosecutor's Office, the Forensic Police, the General Register Office, the Islamic Community of Agrigento, the University of Palermo and the Italian delegation of the ICRC, to obtain information on the progress of search, identification, burial and repatriation of dead and missing people. In Türkiye, **MEDAK** coordinated with the Turkish Ministry of Health and local authorities to secure authorization for the project on sexual and reproductive health prevention, thereby enhancing its impact and reach. In Yemen, the collaboration between the **SOS Foundation for Development** and the Social Researcher Foundation, led by a young man from the Horn of Africa, contributed to raising public awareness of the conditions of refugees and migrants from these regions.



Photo. "Digital Health Solutions for Refugees' Access to Health" Project, Türkiye

Empowerment and Leadership

Although each of the seven initiatives pursued specific objectives and activities, they all contributed significantly to the **empowerment of migrants and refugees**, with particular attention to women and young people. In Türkiye, the **MEDAK initiative by the Medical Rescue Association** allowed refugee women and girls of childbearing age to access the HERA application, strengthening their sexual and reproductive rights and preventing gender-based violence. In Mexico, the project by **Movilidades Libres y Elegidas** enabled migrants travelling along the southern border to obtain digital literacy and training on the safe use of digital platforms and social media to protect their privacy. In Colombia and Yemen, migrants' participation in the initiatives by **Fundación Desarrollo y Paz** and the **SOS Foundation for Development**, respectively, amplified their voices and contribution in formulating recommendations for public policy-making. These actions benefitted both Colombian and Venezuelan migrants travelling to Ecuador, as well as migrants and refugees from the Horn of Africa. In Spain, **Solidary Wheels No Borders for Human Rights** promoted the

empowerment of migrants by educating them on their rights and supporting them in administrative and legal procedures, such as residence and nationality applications, appeals against denied access to temporary holding facilities for migrants, and other procedures before public authorities. In Italy and Tunisia, **Mem.med Memoria Mediterranea ETS** gave visibility to the mothers and sisters of migrants who died or disappeared in the Mediterranean, highlighting the impact that the EU's borders externalisation policies have on migration management beyond its borders and migrants' rights. In Egypt, the **Tafawol Association for Special Needs and Development** promoted the empowerment of Sudanese migrants, refugees and asylum seekers by issuing public statements, requesting updates on ongoing investigations to competent authorities and fostering collective memory. The association also provided them with clear and accessible legal information on amendments to the Egyptian migration law, enabling them to acquire up-to-date knowledge and make informed decisions.



Photo. “NoMore, Mem.Med Memoria Mediterranea ETS” Project, Italy and Tunisia

The table below summarises the projects, providing a graphical overview of the information above.

Initiative	Areas of Operation	Targets	Main Activities	Main Results	Strengths
Movilidades Libres y Elegidas. Mexico	Mexico's southern borders	Defending human rights and reporting violations of freedom and privacy	Research Training Public outcry Strategic alliances	Maps showing the location and type of border surveillance	Empowering migrants to safely use the Internet in order to protect their privacy
SOS Foundation for Development. Yemen	Aden	Promoting a long-term consideration and inclusion of migrants and refugees' rights in Yemen's peace-making and post-conflict processes	Surveys to collect information Research Strategic alliances	Report outlining the needs and recommendations of refugees to be considered in the peace-making and post-conflict processes	Increasing participation and advocacy in civic participation contexts

Initiative	Areas of Operation	Targets	Main Activities	Main Results	Strengths
Solidary Wheels No Borders for Human Rights. Spain	Melilla	Promoting the social inclusion of people in transit and providing social and legal support to people at the southern border	Administrative and legal support Public statements and outcry Publications Strategic alliances	Advocacy for right-based policies by enforcing the right to equality and monitoring racism	Guaranteeing advocacy and administrative and legal support
Mem.Med Memoria Mediterranea ETS. Italy and Tunisia	Mediterranean border (Sicily and Tunisia)	Supporting and reporting, together with the mothers and sisters of victims who perish during the journey across the Mediterranean	Publications Public statements and outcry Requests to public authorities Commemorative activities	Raising awareness of the impact of EU measures on migration management beyond its borders	Empowering and advocating for the mothers and sisters of migrants who died or disappeared in the Mediterranean
Medical Rescue Association (MEDAK). Türkiye	Hatay	Fighting health risks for refugee women through digital health literacy using the HERA Digital Health App	Workshops Training Access to HERA App Distribution of hygiene kits	Training young reproductive-aged and pregnant women in refugee centres on sexual and reproductive rights and the prevention of gender-based violence	Strengthening advocacy and awareness regarding women's sexual and reproductive rights
Tafawol Association for Special Needs and Development Egypt	Cairo	Disseminating accessible information on recent laws facilitating the Sudanese community's comprehension	Legal support Research Publications Workshops Strategic alliances	Drafting up-to-date documents on Egyptian migration laws, making them accessible and easy to understand	Expanding advocacy and awareness regarding the changes to immigration laws
Fundación Desarrollo y Paz. Colombia	Municipalities of Ipiales and Tumaco	Increasing political participation and advocacy in civic participation contexts among Venezuelans	Workshops Surveys to collect information Publications Strategic alliances	Municipalities of Ipiales and Tumaco	Encouraging participation and advocacy in civic participation contexts among Venezuelans

4. CONCLUSIONS, LESSONS LEARNT AND CHALLENGES

The following are the main conclusions resulting from the implementation of the HMI, based on the knowledge, expertise, voices and experiences of the organisations involved. These insights were achieved through their dedicated work in influencing and shaping transformative migration policy agendas, respecting the human rights of migrants and refugees, promoting access to local solutions and systematically including the perspectives,

needs and recommendations of local organisations in human mobility processes. **The project highlighted the structural and administrative challenges faced by migrants and refugees** and drew attention to their needs, difficulties and the human rights violations they experience throughout mobility processes. **It also emphasised the strategic importance of front-line organisations willing to advocate** for the guarantees established by international humanitarian law.

Furthermore, the project underlined the value of local partnerships and coordination in amplifying the impact of its actions, reporting violations, issuing joint statements, raising awareness about migration, building support networks and fostering solidarity. Another key aspect was **the role of social media in spreading messages, raising awareness and mobilising support for the human rights of migrants and refugees**. Some initiatives demonstrated the benefits of digital literacy and the need to safeguard the right to privacy and inclusive access to information from both a rights-based and gender perspective. These elements were analysed in the workshop on the initiatives' progress and results in December 2024.

In the **“Social and legal assistance for people on the move and advocacy on the southern border Melilla”** Project in Spain, the key achievement was the ability to adapt the advocacy for migrants' human rights in Melilla to an increasingly restrictive context in terms of guarantees. Despite access barriers and bureaucratic obstacles, administrative and legal support continued to ensure the protection of human rights within public bodies. Participatory and collaborative advocacy strategies, applied through public outcry and legal empowerment sessions, proved beneficial. In spite of the progress and results achieved so far, improvement is still needed in public outcry and the development of strategic support for migrants, in order to strengthen their organisational skills and collective advocacy with a focus on gender. **Solidary Wheels No Borders for Human Rights** acknowledged that, given the reluctance of public authorities in Melilla, stronger alliances among human rights organisations are essential to fight the institutional barriers faced by migrants through documentation, monitoring and joint requests.

The **“Assessing the Legal Rights of Newly Arriving Sudanese to Egypt”** Project successfully mapped Egyptian migration and asylum laws and their recent amendments, in collaboration with academic institutions. It also produced translated and easily understandable information for Sudanese people, widely shared among refugees during the legal sessions

included in the project to ensure the right to information and informed decision-making. The **Tafawol Association for Special Needs and Development** reported that, unfortunately, during the implementation of the project, detention and deportation of Sudanese migrants and refugees, including those with valid legal status, increased.

Due to the rapid changes in Egyptian asylum law, experience showed that organisations working with refugees must be flexible and responsive. At the same time, given the refugees and asylum seekers' need for legal information, another key factor was the involvement of more legal volunteers in legal sessions in order to handle the demand for assistance with asylum procedures.

In Mexico, the “**Investigating surveillance technology that monitors migrants, refugees and human rights defenders**” Project conducted a study detecting the location of the most heavily controlled points and the types of surveillance along the southern Mexican border, which caused multiple privacy and human rights violations. Involving human rights defenders and local organisations in the research was a valuable idea. It proved that the migrants and refugees in transit face risks connected to technological controls by state institutions and organised crime, which capture personal data and sensitive information. Consequently, training sessions and advice on social media, digital security and data protection through digital applications proved to be a positive outcome.

The organisation **Movilidades Libres y Elegidas** reported that some organisations involved in the initiative's workshops were affected by the freezing of international development cooperation funds from USAID projects. This underlined the importance for local organisations to diversify funding sources to ensure operational continuity and independence, in order not to interrupt the activities aimed to protect the rights of migrants and refugees.

The “**Aden crossroads: Empowering Horn of Africa Migrant and refugees for a peaceful Yemen**” Project provided first-hand insights into the health and housing needs and issues of people from the Horn of Africa in Yemen by gathering information directly from the refugees in Aden. This provided valuable data to be transformed into recommendations reflecting the voices of migrants and refugees and to be included in Yemen's peace-making public policies, thus improving people's quality of life. Cooperation with local organisations led by young migrants from the Horn of Africa was identified as a good practice. The **SOS Foundation for Development**

worked with these organisations to strengthen their administrative, financial and contractual processes and procedures, contributing to their sustainability and better support for the migrant community. This initiative focused on including the voices of those directly affected in the promotion of active participation. The SOS Foundation for Development emphasised the benefits of the initiative as a tool for enriching its knowledge about migrants, which will be useful in its future projects addressing the most pressing issues for the population.

Despite the declared cessation of hostilities in Yemen, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that the consequences of the armed conflict caused great humanitarian deterioration. The population continues to feel the effects of the conflict, the unmet needs of migrants and refugees persist, food and medicine shortages are still a constant, affecting millions of children suffering from severe malnutrition, and essential infrastructure such as hospitals are still targeted. Even though the HMI provided a platform for migrant and refugee voices in the cessation of hostilities and peace-building processes, people on the move still face huge challenges in Yemen and constant efforts are needed to protect human rights. One of the main lessons learnt from the initiative in Yemen was the crucial importance of placing the voices of migrants and refugees at the centre of research, public policy-making and advocacy, in order to achieve horizontal processes connected to the real conditions of refugees.

In Italy and Tunisia, the activities of the “**NoMore - Monitoraggio del confine italo-tunisino**” Project confirm the urgency of documenting, denouncing and challenging the systemic violence embedded in the Euro-Mediterranean border regime, manifested through the disappearance and death of migrants at sea and the consequent institutional negligence. Not only was the initiative successful in exposing such dynamics, but also in supporting families seeking truth, memory and justice. A major achievement of the project was the development of a multiscale and transnational methodology for promoting knowledge, legal documentation and advocacy in cases of disappearance and death in human mobility contexts in the Mediterranean. **Mem.Med Memoria Mediterranea ETS** stressed the need to focus on the experiences and voices of affected communities not merely as sources of data, but political actors and co-producers of knowledge, as reflected in the publication *Resistenze ai confini* (Resistance at the Borders). Similarly, the initiative pointed out fragmented and often inaccessi-

ble legal frameworks, especially in transnational contexts involving multiple jurisdictions and ineffective procedures. In Tunisia, the reduction of civic space, increasing surveillance and the risk of criminalisation hindered the fieldwork.

The HMI noted that formalising protocols and accountability mechanisms between countries is still a challenge, particularly when it comes to identifying bodies, accessing information and the right to a dignified burial. This was counterbalanced by the impact of messages and public outcry amplified through the media and social media, which transformed complex legal and political issues into accessible and emotionally resonant content. The grief of mothers and sisters emerged as a political act and mourning practices, when displayed publicly and supported collectively, can be spaces for mobilisation, resistance and new forms of solidarity.

In Colombia, the “**EMPOWERD**” Project made a major contribution to strengthening migrant participation in territorial development processes. One of the main achievements was the importance of migrants' knowledge of territorial governance mechanisms, such as the country's Territorial Planning Councils (CPTs), an important platform for civic participation. A relevant outcome was the presence of a migrant delegate in the CPTs, guaranteeing migrant participation and amplifying migrants' active voices in the formulation of local development plans. This also laid the foundations for migrant long-term participation. Coordination and cooperation with local public bodies also proved to be effective, because it produced breeding ground for a participatory dialogue between migrants and local authorities. Strengthening trust between migrant leaders and local authorities was key to continuity, paving the way for institutional opportunities to integrate migrants' recommendations into territorial development plans. Future initiatives should continue to grow on such institutional opportunities, ensuring that migrants' voices remain central in territorial development processes.

Fundación Desarrollo y Paz noticed that, throughout the HMI, different opinions among migrant community leaders sometimes led to a lack of cohesion in decision-making. However, this context proved to be an opportunity to strengthen bonds of trust and cooperation among migrants. This is a key component of the inclusive governance on which the project focused and it brought benefits and commitment to the migrant associations involved.

Lastly, in Türkiye, the “**Digital Health Solutions for Refugees' Access to Health**” Project proved the effectiveness of digital health tools in humanitarian crisis contexts. These results emerged from the integration of the HERA application into WhatsApp, digital literacy, training on women’s sexual and reproductive rights, digital interactions on health, healthcare and the prevention of gender-based violence. The strong coordination with local authorities and NGOs operating in the project’s reference area was another relevant outcome. It granted the necessary authorizations to run the app and the workshops, contributing to the feasibility of the initiative.

Another key element that emerged from the HMI was the role of technology in proactively promoting and giving social media visibility to useful information on health rights for refugee women. All this, combined with local partnerships and the promotion of their benefits among potential partners, could open the way to different funding sources and long-term impact for similar initiatives by the **Medical Rescue Association (MEDAK)** in the future. The initiative faced significant challenges, particularly financial constraints due to shifting donor priorities and the USAID's stand-down order following the US presidential election. Such obstacles did not discourage MEDAK, which adopted adaptation strategies, such as shifting from field to digital operations, in order to preserve the impact of the project.

Each of the seven initiatives launched to protect the rights of people on the move produced significant results. This was possible thanks to the empowerment of migrants and refugees, the production of accurate information based on data and migrants’ views, particularly from a gender perspective, and the creation of informative content for human rights advocacy, which was widely disseminated through traditional and digital media. Amplifying the impact of the HMI means reinforcing the message that every action aimed at protecting migrants’ human rights is not only necessary, but also urgent. These measures are essential to ensuring dignified human mobility processes, in line with the principles of international humanitarian law.

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For further information on the issues raised in this paper, please email martina.azzalea@oxfam.it

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