



# SIHMA

Scalabrini Institute for  
Human Mobility in Africa

# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT





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## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

While the world is shaken by major geopolitical events, climate change, and the dynamics of inequality we see a constant increase in worldwide migration, and in Africa in particular. This strengthens and clarifies the mission of our study centre.

We retain two foci. On the one hand, we assemble accurate and evidence based data of the dynamics of human mobility on the continent, and on the other, we disseminate the findings to the widest possible audience. Our goal is to inform policy makers, practitioners, civil society and non-governmental organisations engaged in the field of promoting human rights. This work supports the integral development of migrants and refugees.

This new edition of our annual report is a window on our tireless work to realise our institute's mission. It informs about our research projects on the most relevant topics, scientific publications - especially the AHMR journal -, the training for pastoral agents of migration, and takes a closer look at new paths and narratives of migration.

Throughout the past year we have made it our daily commitment to be guided by three principles:

We work for the ultimate goal of a more just and welcoming society, where the well-being of host communities and people on the move is designed and supported by enlightened, forward-looking and inclusive actions and policies.

We continually build meaningful networks and partnerships with other organisations and institutes working in the same field. This increases the quality of research. The feasibility of proposed solutions are increasingly robust because of shared vision.

Most importantly, we reference the Scalabrinian charism and tradition, which for over 130 years has enlightened and accompanied our vision. We prioritise the unquestionable dignity of every human being. We welcome and promote the material and spiritual personhood of each migrant. We work with the belief that each migrant is an agent who contributes to the common good of a welcoming society.

We hope that a critical reading of this report will inspire others to work in the same direction.

**Filippo Ferraro, SIHMA Executive Director**

# SIHMA ORGANISATION

## OUR VISION

An Africa where the human rights of people on the move are ensured, and their dignity is promoted.

## OUR MISSION

To conduct and disseminate research that contributes to the understanding of human mobility and informs policies that ensure the rights and dignity of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in Africa.

For our presence and work, according to the official documents of the Congregation, we claim:

**specificity:** focused on our specific mission, that is serving migrants, refugees, seafarers and people on the move

**significance:** committed to a ministry and service that is relevant and able to be a seed of newness in the Church and in society

**exemplarity:** to be testimonials of our charism, so that others can be inspired to continue our service after us

# SCALABRINI, SERVING PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Founded in 2014, the Scalabrini Institute for Human Mobility in Africa (SIHMA) is a research institute and non-profit organisation advocating for the rights of migrants and refugees.

**Saint John Baptist Scalabrini** founded in 1887, the Missionaries of St. Charles (Scalabrinians), a Congregation of the Catholic Church devoted to the care of migrants, refugees, seafarers and people on the move.,

The late 20th century was the age of the huge migration of poor people who were crossing the Atlantic to reach the Americas and Scalabrini, impressed by that phenomenon, decided to do something. The beginnings of the Congregation were humble and unpretentious: just two Italian priests who made their vows in the hands of the Founder and left.

The first mission fields were the United States and Brazil. Subsequently, keeping pace with the evolution of the migration flows, we reached other countries and continents.

Today, the Scalabrini Congregation works in South Africa and more than 30 countries of the world, according to the Scalabrini ethos and inspired by universal values such as respect for human dignity and diversity. Fathers, with the invaluable help of lay people, exercise their ministry of consecrated people in parishes, missions, chaplaincies, reception centres, shelters for migrants, and at seaports; they are also present in national and diocesan Church organisms and centres of migration studies, like SIHMA.

The **main areas of work** of the Congregation are:

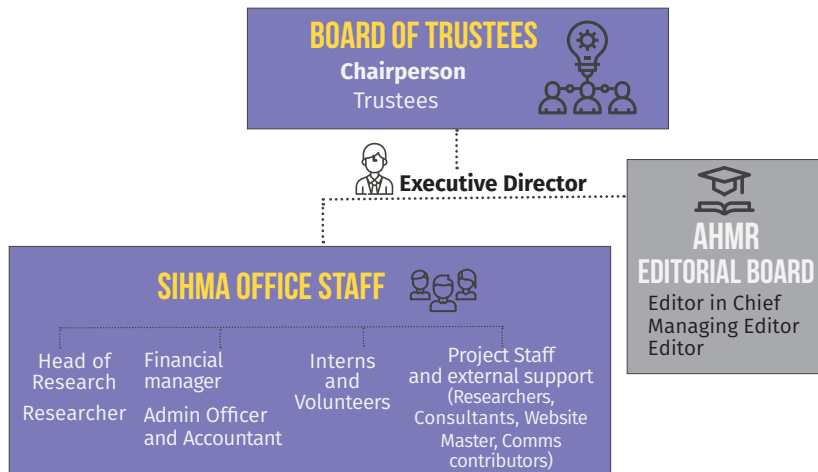
- Pastoral care and spiritual assistance of people on the move;
- Social projects, research on human mobility, promotion of human rights;
- Activities linked with our charisma and promotion of our spirituality.

# SCALABRINI IN AFRICA

The Congregation of Missionaries of St Charles is present on African soil from 1994. We are grateful for the hard work of the staff, volunteers, and Fathers of the Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town, Lawrence House, and SIHMA, whose combined efforts have ensured that migrants and refugees to South Africa are treated with dignity and empathy, qualities emphasized by the endeavours of John Baptist Scalabrini.



## ORGANISATIONAL CHART



- 1994 Scalabrini Fathers are **called to work in South Africa** by Archbishop of Cape Town Lawrence Henry. They start to work in **Holy Cross Parish** in District Six, with pastoral care of the Italian community too.
- 1995 **Chaplaincy of the Port** of Cape Town (AoS) and pastoral care of the Portuguese community.
- 4 June 2003 The **Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town** inaugurates the new building in Commercial St.
- 16 April 2005 **Lawrence House**, Child and Youth Centre for Vulnerable Minors (especially migrants and refugees).
- October 2005 Scalabrini Fathers start a new **Mission in Nampula (Mozambique)** for pastoral care of refugees in Maratane Camp.
- 2012 Opening of the new Mission in **Johannesburg (St.Patrick La Rochelle)**.
- 2013 **St.Agnes Parish** in Woodstock consolidates an intercultural community, including French-speaking refugees.
- 5 December 2014 **SIHMA** is started as the new research institute of Scalabrini focused on human mobility in Africa.
- 2021 Opening of new social projects in Johannesburg at St.Patrick La Rochelle.
- 2019-2022 Feasibility study of SIHMA in Uganda for the opening of a new Scalabrini mission.
- 9 October 2022 **John Baptist Scalabrini is proclaimed Saint** by Pope Francis in Rome.
- 11 January 2023 **Opening of the new Scalabrini mission in Kampala** (Uganda).



# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The past many months have witnessed some of the greatest spikes in forced human mobility across the world, certainly the highest since World War II. We are now approaching somewhere near 300m who have migrated or moved from their places of origin, of which the alarmingly high number of 108m have forcibly displaced. This trend shows absolutely no sign of reversing or even diminishing and hence it has to be acknowledged as one of the concrete signs of the times. With it, goes an increase in all the myriad of human and social pathologies, the fracture in social cohesion and a culture of disruption.

With it sadly there has also been a rise in right wing politics, populism, nationalism and a growing environment of exclusion which has made the life of people on the move unbelievably dangerous and difficult. Across the globe the rise in xenophobia and the deliberate demonising of 'others' has intensified the culture of exclusion. In this milieu prejudice is elevated to fact, ignorance to established narrative and propaganda elevated into uncontested truths. In these cases it is indeed truth that is sacrificed on the altar of expediency and the culture of exclusion thus appears to be based on and further propagated by a spurious intellectual legitimacy. We have seen in many countries including South Africa how the issue of human mobility has become a key issue in national elections. In South Africa it was regarded as one of the top five issues which influenced peoples choice of political parties and thus political direction for the coming years.

Kwame Nkrumah one of the architects of the African independence movement in the 1950s and 60s often repeated the mantra that 'action without thought is empty.' I recommend that lens as a key way to a close reading and appreciation of the SIHMA Annual report. It is a record of sterling work, hours and hours of intense labour, intellectual perspicacity and rigorous research imbued with those values that distinguish the Scalabrini spirit. Contrary to the spirit of the age, the work celebrated in this Report underlines the absolute necessity of action been underpinned by rigorous analysis, study and collaborative engagement with other centres of formation, in a spirit of clarification and in a joint search for truth in the public space. SIHMA makes a worthy contribution to an understanding of complex issues, gives considered direction to action and through its variety of academic pursuits helps curb the dominance of lazy thinking, disruptive propaganda and the alchemy of lies that is used to dehumanise others.

The trustees are proud to be associated with the research, the academic contributions to this ever evolving field of intellectual endeavour and above all the refined thought that gives direction to the actions, the struggles, the political interventions and advocacy that enhances the struggles of setting the downtrodden free and breaks the cursed culture of exclusion in the service of establishing a more humane society and a just world. The trustees congratulate the Institute for their herculean work and recommend this Report for your edification.

**Fr. Peter John Pearson, SIHMA's Board Member and Director of CPLO**



**Fr. Eduardo Gabriel, Chairman**

Fr Eduardo is a Brazilian Missionary of St Charles. He completed in 2010 his Ph.D. in sociology. Since 2017 he's working in Johannesburg at the Scalabrini mission of St. Patrick La Rochelle, coordinating also social interventions and projects.



**Fr. Peter John Pearson**

Peter-John is a priest of the Archdiocese of Cape Town and the Director of the Catholic Parliamentary Liaison Office (CPLO). He began his journey to the priesthood after studying law and developed a passion for social justice in service of the poor.



**Dulce Pereira**

Dulce, after retiring from Standard Bank started to work as a volunteer with the Scalabrini Fathers, becoming the full-time financial administrator. She is one of the founding trustees of the Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town.



**Fr. Jorge Guerra**

Jorge is a missionary of the Scalabrinian Congregation (Missionaries of St Charles Borromeo) based in Johannesburg at St. Patrick La Rochelle, a multicultural community hosting locals, migrants and refugees.



**Willem Van Schalkwyk**

Willem started his life as an engineer in 1985, after graduating from the University of Stellenbosch. In 1999 he changed to financial services, shortly thereafter he became the Group Compliance Officer for Metropolitan. He was in various compliance roles up to his retirement in 2021.

**“CONSEQUENTLY, EVEN AS WE WORK TO ENSURE THAT IN EVERY CASE MIGRATION IS THE FRUIT OF A FREE DECISION, WE ARE CALLED TO SHOW MAXIMUM RESPECT FOR THE DIGNITY OF EACH MIGRANT; THIS ENTAILS ACCOMPANYING AND MANAGING WAVES OF MIGRATION AS BEST WE CAN, CONSTRUCTING BRIDGES AND NOT WALLS, EXPANDING CHANNELS FOR A SAFE AND REGULAR MIGRATION.**

**IN WHATEVER PLACE WE DECIDE TO BUILD OUR FUTURE, IN THE COUNTRY OF OUR BIRTH OR ELSEWHERE, THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT THERE ALWAYS BE A COMMUNITY READY TO WELCOME, PROTECT, PROMOTE AND INTEGRATE EVERYONE, WITHOUT DISTINCTIONS AND WITHOUT EXCLUDING ANYONE”.**

**POPE FRANCIS**

**MESSAGE FOR THE 109TH WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES 2023**

# SIHMA TEAM



**Filippo Ferraro**  
**Executive Director**

[director@sihma.org.za](mailto:director@sihma.org.za)

Filippo is a Scalabrini Father.

He completed his bachelors degree at the Theological Institute of Northern Italy (Milan) and obtained a diploma in pastoral theology of migration from SIMI (Pontifical Urban University in Rome).

He started his ministry in South Africa in 2014 as chaplain of the French-speaking refugee community in the Archdiocese of Cape Town. Since 2017 he has been the executive director of SIHMA and his main interests are the connection between academic research and work in the field of NGOs and the production of media on human mobility.

He has been the coordinator of several social projects for the Scalabrinian Congregation in Africa. Among his roles in the network he also serves as chairperson of the Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town.



**Dr. Rachel Chinyakata**  
**Head of research**

[research@sihma.org.za](mailto:research@sihma.org.za)

Rachel Chinyakata is the Head of Research at SIHMA working on human mobility, migration policies, migration and health, gender, migration and climate and vulnerable minors research. She holds a PhD in Gender Studies degree from the University of Venda. Rachel has previously worked for mothers2mothers as a researcher responsible for conceptualising and conducting Evaluation and Operations Research. She has also worked at the University of the Western Cape as a postdoctoral research fellow leading research on Human Capabilities under the SARCHI in Human Capabilities, Social Cohesion, and the Family. She is passionate about conducting research that contributes knowledge development, informed policies and programmes that promotes the rights and well-being of migrants, asylum seekers, refugees, and other people on the move.



**Muluh Cletus**  
**Researcher**

[research@sihma.org.za](mailto:research@sihma.org.za)

Born and raised in a rural community in the North West Region of Cameroon, Momasoh Cletus Muluh is a holder of a master's degree in Development Studies from the University of the Western Cape.

He is currently doing his Ph.D. in the Department of Sociology at the University of Cape Town with research and teaching interest around African migration, integration, social change, and policy formation.

He lectured introduction to Sociology and Development Studies at the Cape Peninsula University of Technology for first and second-year students.

He is very passionate about the survival mechanisms and or strategies that migrants use in their integration process within their host communities.





**Malcolm J. Salida**  
**Financial Manager**

[finances@sihma.org.za](mailto:finances@sihma.org.za)

Malcolm is a highly skilled, trained and respected finance executive having professionally assisted many organisations and international developmental projects. With close to 30 years working experience, of which at least 18 have been at an executive and board level, he brings an enthusiastic leadership style to all roles he assumes. He applies his financial and business management skills with an attention to detail to ensure processes and systems are aligned to achieve strategic business objectives. He has a strong passion to ensure that governance, ethics, professionalism, transparency and authenticity are foremost in any business/organisation he manages.



**Gladys-May Mukonowenzou**  
**Admin Officer and Accountant**

[accounts@sihma.org.za](mailto:accounts@sihma.org.za)

Gladys-May is skilled and motivated and has a strong foundation in analytical problem solving, financial management, and customer service. Born and raised in Zimbabwe where she gained experience in the NGO sector having worked for Catholic Relief Services, she moved to South Africa where she worked for a consultancy company as a Finance and Admin Officer and as an Assistant Accounting Officer for a local NPO. Her zeal for personal growth has seen her attaining an N6 Diploma in Financial Management and currently enrolled with the Southern New Hampshire University pursuing a BA in Management. Gladys-May is a team player and is always willing to go the extra mile to help her colleagues and the Organisation achieve its goals.

## THANKS TO SIPHOSETHU



We extend our gratitude and appreciation to Siphosethu, who served as the Admin and Accounting Officer at SIHMA till last year. She demonstrated dedication, exceptional skills, and a profound commitment to our mission.

Her attention to detail, coupled with her proactive approach, ensured that our administrative and financial operations ran smoothly and efficiently. Beyond her technical expertise, Siphosethu's warm and collaborative spirit fostered a positive and productive work environment, contributing to our achievements.

We wish her all the best in her future endeavors and know that she will continue her great work in another organisation, where for sure she will also continue to perform with deep appreciation and respect.



**“THE MIGRATORY FLOWS OF OUR TIMES ARE THE EXPRESSION OF A COMPLEX AND VARIED PHENOMENON THAT, TO BE PROPERLY UNDERSTOOD, REQUIRES A CAREFUL ANALYSIS OF EVERY ASPECT OF ITS DIFFERENT STAGES, FROM DEPARTURE TO ARRIVAL, INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF RETURN”.**

**POPE FRANCIS**

**MESSAGE FOR THE 109TH WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES 2023**

# SIHMA VOLUNTEER AND INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

Volunteering at SIHMA is an interesting, stimulating, and unique opportunity that guarantees a valuable learning experience. We aim to make voluntary placement a fruitful exchange, both for SIHMA and for your skills and personal development.

The internship programme also foresees the involvement in other programmes of Scalabrini Centre and activities related to our network. This allows the interns and volunteers to have a real deep immersion in the migratory phenomenon, meeting refugees and people on the move, sharing their stories and needs. SIHMA offers a 3-month position for an administrative and communications volunteer and a 6-month position for a research volunteer. A detailed description of the two positions is available in our website. For more information, please contact us at [admin@sihma.org.za](mailto:admin@sihma.org.za).



## COMMUNICATION AND ADMINISTRATION

(AT LEAST 3 MONTHS)

Reception and administration (calls, emails, and other duties); Assisting in events management i.e. workshops, round-tables, and conferences; assisting in social media management (Facebook, Twitter, Blog On The Move, and Instagram); writing reports of our activities and events; researching and writing on topical articles related to our work; Supporting media production at different levels; checking and selecting material to be published on our website.



## RESEARCH INTERN

(AT LEAST 4/6 MONTHS)

Assisting the SIHMA research team with qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis (depending on experience and qualification); carrying out literature and evidence reviews, including identifying relevant research evidence, appraising the quality of evidence and writing up key findings; collaborating in the making of “knowledge products” for disseminating research and articles to non-academic recipients; participation in stakeholder fora and workshops that are of interest or relevance, assisting with other tasks that are necessary for the daily business of the organisation.



## REMOTE INTERNSHIP

(AT LEAST 2/3 MONTHS)

Due to current circumstances, we have developed a special profile for those candidates who cannot be here physically but are available to work remotely. Tasks are defined according to the skills of the volunteer and the ongoing projects of SIHMA. A good internet connection and proficient English are required. A list of IT skills is highly appreciated.

# INTERNS AT SIHMA 2023/24



## ROXIE RICHNER

From Michigan, United States of America; Bachelor of Arts: Social Relations and Public Policy, James Madison College, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI;  
Research and Communications Intern from June to August 2023.

Roxie shared her experiences as a Research and Communications Intern, working on various projects, gaining insights into the challenges faced by migrants, refugees, and asylum-seekers, and deepening her knowledge of migration policies in South Africa. Her contributions included authoring blog posts, compiling press reviews, and assisting with editing and administrative tasks. Roxie was particularly proud of her research on the intersection of Disability and Migration, which involved creating an online resource under the guidance of Dr. Rachel Chinyakata.

*"The project I was most proud of was research regarding the intersection of Disability and Migration. Under Rachel's guidance, I developed an extensive online resource that details the challenges that people with disabilities face as they flee conflict and face displacement, as well as barriers to resettlement migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers with disabilities encounter upon arrival to host countries. I was given autonomy to conceptualize the layout, as well as create graphic assets, and authoring literature. I also attended a conference on World Refugee Day called "Assessing South Africa's Refugee Protection System." It was very interesting to hear perspectives from both legal advocates and activists on the ground that were directly impacted. There were so many things I enjoyed about my experience at SIHMA, but what stood out the most to me were the relationships I built with my co-workers. Each of them were incredibly intelligent, thoughtful, and kind."*



## IZABELLA BRATTER

From New York, United States of America; Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and International Affairs, Concentration in International Relations and Diplomacy; Refugee Research and Communications Intern from September 2023 to March 2024

*"My internship at SIHMA was an incredibly rewarding and transformative experience. At SIHMA, I had the privilege of contributing to impactful research and initiatives that promote the rights and dignity of migrants and refugees across the continent. SIHMA's dedicated team, driven by a shared commitment to human rights work, continuously inspires me with their invaluable and unique work."*

*Through my internship, I witnessed first-hand the difference that informed policy-making and advocacy can make in the lives of individuals and communities. The diverse and dynamic environment at SIHMA has enriched my understanding of migration issues and has equipped me with essential skills and knowledge for my future, which I hope will be in the human rights and migration space. I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of an organization that not only champions the cause of migrants and refugees but also fosters a spirit of empathy and hope."*







## TIWONGE LOGA

From Malawi; PGDip Law; MSc Transitional Justice, Human Rights and Rule of Law, PhD in Public Health; Volunteer Researcher with SIHMA from September to December 2023.



*My name is Tiwonge Loga and I am from Malawi “The Warm Heart of Africa”. I am also from the ‘olden days”, as described by my Gen Z tribe. I have a PhD in Public Health. After years of work, I decided to go back to school in a new, but complementary field. So, I obtained a Post Graduate Diploma in Law and a Masters in Transitional Justice, Human Rights and Rule of Law.*

*Two factors motivated me to apply to SIHMA as a Volunteer Researcher. The first was an interest in international refugee law through my new training. And the second was an ongoing situation in Malawi at the time, where refugees and asylum seekers who had settled in communities were being taken back to refugee camps, in line with Malawi’s “reservation to freedom of movement rights”. I wanted to gain better understanding of the needs and challenges of refugees, asylum seekers and migrant populations.*

*SIHMA allowed me the opportunity to gain some insight into practicalities of refugee work. I was tasked to conduct a desk review on ‘Key performance indicator framework for refugee integration in Uganda’ and to develop a paper focusing on ‘Patterns and contributory factors to trafficking of minors in Mzimba district, Malawi’. I also sharpened my social media abilities with the help of a very tech-savvy volunteer and wrote several blogs including ‘Still fit for purpose – the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees’ and ‘Nexus of human trafficking and refugee camps’.*

*SIHMA also introduced me to the operational side of service delivery and support for refugees and migrants through the Scalabrini Centre. In collaboration with their legal and advocacy department, I attended technical discussions on the international refugee convention and its link with the local South African statutes.*

*SIHMA and Scalabrini Centre seamlessly combined refugee/migrant research and service delivery, with each part informing and complementing the other. And the time spent with them between September and December 2023 was very personally rewarding. A big thank you goes to the SIHMA Research Manager for giving me the opportunity, and to the rest of the Scalabrini family. And did I mention how stunning Cape Town itself was?*

**“THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO PUT A STOP OR A LIMIT TO EMIGRATION FOR PATRIOTIC OR ECONOMIC REASONS AND THOSE WHO, BECAUSE OF A MISTAKEN IDEA OF FREEDOM, WANT EMIGRATION LEFT TO ITSELF, WITHOUT DIRECTION OR GUIDANCE, ARE EITHER NOT USING THEIR HEADS OR, IN MY OPINION, ARE REASONING EGOISTICALLY AND INSENSITIVELY.**

**IN FACT, BY BLOCKING EMIGRATION, WE ARE VIOLATING A SACRED HUMAN RIGHT; AND BY LEAVING IT TO ITSELF, WE ARE MAKING EMIGRATION INEFFECTUAL. THE FORMER FORGET THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ARE INALIENABLE, THAT HENCE A PERSON CAN SEEK HIS FORTUNE WHEREVER HE SO DESIRES. THE LATTER FORGET THAT EMIGRATION IS A CENTRIFUGAL FORCE, WHICH, IF WELL DIRECTED, CAN ALSO BECOME A VERY POWERFUL CENTRIPETAL FORCE. ”.**

**ST. JOHN BAPTIST SCALABRINI**

# AMONG OUR PARTNERS



Migrants & Refugees Section  
Dicastery for Promoting Integral  
Human Development (Vatican City)



SACBC - South African Catholic Bishops'  
Conference (South Africa, Botswana  
and Eswatini)



CPLO - Catholic Parliamentary  
Liaison Office (Cape Town, South Africa  
and African network)



CEI - Italian Bishops' Conference  
(Rome, Italy)



UWC - University of the Western  
Cape (Cape Town, South Africa)



UCT - University of Cape Town  
(Cape Town, South Africa)



ACMS - African Centre for Migration and  
Society (University of the Witwatersrand  
- Johannesburg, South Africa)



Centre for Migration Study  
University of Ghana (Accra, Ghana)



AMADPOC - African Migration and  
Development Policy Centre  
(Nairobi, Kenya)



OSSREA - Organization for Social  
Science Research in Eastern and  
Southern Africa (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)



Radboud University  
(Nijmegen, Netherlands)



CoRMSA - Consortium for Refugees  
and Migrants in South Africa  
(Pretoria, South Africa)



SCCT - Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town  
(Cape Town, South Africa)



SIMI - Scalabrini International  
Migration Institute (Rome, Italy)



Regional Direction of the Congrega-  
tion of the Missionaries of St. Charles  
- Scalabrinians (Basel, Switzerland)



ASCS - Scalabrini Agency for  
Cooperation and Development  
(Milan, Italy)



ICMC - International Catholic Migration  
Commission (Geneva, Switzerland)



JRS - Jesuit Refugee Service  
(Southern Africa Region)



LHR - Lawyers for Human Rights  
(Pretoria, South Africa)



CTIP - Counter Trafficking in Persons  
Office (Pretoria, South Africa)



CSEM - Centro Scalabriniano de  
estudios migratorios (Scalabrini  
Sisters - Brasilia, Brazil)



Cultural Video Production Africa  
(Nairobi, Kenya)



University of Valencia  
(Valencia, Spain)



CERAP - Centre for Research and Action  
for Peace  
(Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire)



The Scalabrini International Migration Network (SIMN) is an umbrella organization established in 2007 by the Congregation of the Missionaries of Saint Charles, Scalabrinians. SIMN encompasses more than 250 grassroots Scalabrini entities that serve and advocate for the dignity and rights of migrants, refugees, internally displaced people, and seafarers around the world. SIMN fulfils its mission through an extensive network of think tanks, social service centres, shelters, senior centres, orphanages, medical clinics, kindergartens, schools, employment centres, and cultural centres. SIMN works closely with other entities at the local, national, and international levels, promoting comprehensive service programs and advocating for the dignity and rights of migrants and their families.



The Federation of Scalabrini Centers for Migration Studies unites seven centres across the world, each devoted to research and advocacy on migration. Located in New York, Paris, Rome, Basel, São Paulo, Buenos Aires, and Manila, these centres monitor the development of international migration. All of them are organized with similar departments, including a program dedicated to research, another dedicated to specialized publications—including periodicals, monographs, and academic papers—as well as programmes dedicated to documentation, conferences, and other educational activities.

# NETWORK OF STUDY CENTRES



## **CEMLA, Buenos Aires**

Centro de Estudios Migratorios Latinoamericanos, established in 1985 in Buenos Aires (Argentina)  
[www.cemla.com](http://www.cemla.com)

## **CEM, Sao Paulo**

Centro de Estudios Migratorios, established in 1985 in Sao Paulo (Brazil)  
[www.missaonspaz.org](http://www.missaonspaz.org)

## **CSER, Rome**

Centro Studi Emigrazione Roma, established in 1964 in Rome (Italy)  
[www.cser.it](http://www.cser.it)

## **CMS, New York**

Center for Migration Studies of New York, established in 1969 in New York (USA)  
[www.cmsny.org](http://www.cmsny.org)

## **CEMI, Paris**

Centre d'Information et Etudes sur les Migrations Internationales, established in 1971 in Paris (France)  
[www.cieml.org](http://www.cieml.org)

## **SMC, Manila**

Scalabrini Migration Center, established in 1987 in Manila (Philippines)  
[www.smc.org.ph](http://www.smc.org.ph)



# SIHMA'S KEY FOCUS AREAS



## 1. RESEARCH

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## 2. PUBLICATIONS

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## 3. TRAINING, CAPACITY BUILDING, AND ONLINE RESOURCES

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## 4. EVENTS AND COMMUNICATION

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# 1. RESEARCH

Human mobility in Africa has a long history spanning several centuries and the continent has a highly mobile population composed of nomads, frontier workers, highly skilled professionals, entrepreneurs, students, refugees and undocumented migrants.

The discourse around migration trends and patterns in Africa is dominated by myths and false assumptions which fail to paint a true reflection of this phenomenon. Our research seeks clarity on the different forms of mobility in Africa. **Conducting research is SIHMA's main activity.**

All the research that we do supports the advocacy, service provision and social projects inside the Scalabrini network. Among the many themes of human mobility, **SIHMA's research agenda** is focused on: migration policies, both at regional and continental level; impact of migration on mental health; xenophobia and Afrophobia; climate change and migration; gender issues; vulnerable minors; human trafficking; refugee rights; and many other areas.



# MINISTRY REPORTS 2022

RESEARCH PROJECT funded by **Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development**

In the year 2023 SIHMA was Commissioned by the Migrants and Refugees Section of the Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development to compile 2 reports for the Migrants and Refugees Section of the Vatican.

These reports consists of the 'best practices' for welcoming, protection, promotion, and integration of migrants and other people on the move as well as interventions in countries to ensure that the local population is empowered and protected so that migration does not become the only option for survival.

The central theme is pastoral care of migrants and people on the move considering the Message "Free to choose whether to migrate or to stay." This means ensuring that all have the conditions necessary for accessing integral human development in their homeland, without being forced to emigrate.

Therefore, SIHMA collected 40 "best" practices by catholic organisations that serve people on the move across Africa.

The second report consisted of 30 "best" practices of interventions by religious sisters that serve people on the move across Africa.

The reports reflects the African Catholic community's work, which relies on the work of episcopal conferences, dioceses, parishes, religious congregations, caritas, migrant groups, and various organisations, confirming its vocation to walk unceasingly alongside people on the move, offering understanding, help and creating opportunities for them to become protagonists of society and the Church.

This reports also offers a credible and interesting picture of the ongoing development of Catholic pastoral care of migrants and local populations in Africa. Although there is always room for improvement and intervention, the reports reflect that the Catholic Church still represents a reliable reference point for all people on the move.

*Expected date of release: May 2024*

# “BORDER TOWNS AND SPACES OF (IN)VISIBILITY: A STUDY OF YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE MOVE IN THE BORDER TOWNS OF CHIPATA AND KATETE, ZAMBIA”

RESEARCH PROJECT funded by **Raskob Foundation**

The movement of young people from one country to another is a common phenomenon, children represent a huge portion of international migrants (UNICEF, 2021). Their movement is mostly motivated by the search of employment, better living and working conditions (Hillier 2007; Walker, Mahati and Magaya, 2020); Save the Children 2020). Border towns are used as springboards or stop-off points to make some money for further travel across to major destination cities.

Zambia hosts thousands of children from other African countries for example the DRC, Malawi, Mozambique, Ethiopia, and it is perceived as a haven and has porous borders with neighbouring countries, but there continues to be a dearth of research on young people entering into Zambia, particularly in the border towns. There is limited understanding of how to support and protect young people who either pass through or remain for some time in border towns as they move. Against this background, SIHMA, in collaboration Dr Glynis Clacherty and Dr Rebecca Walker from the African Centre for Migration and Society in 2023 undertook research to understand the experiences of young people on the move in two border areas in Zambia (Chipata and Katete) with the aim of further developing service, protection, and support strategies for migrant children in border areas across the region.

Through this study the experiences of young people in the border towns were highlighted and possible responses or strategies to strengthen the protection and support of young migrants in border areas and ensure that they are prioritized in the development agenda were also discussed. Through this study strategies that young people on the move employ to remain below the radar of visibility to state and non-state actors due to fear of arrest, detention, and deportation while also trying to keep themselves safe and access support in border towns we identified. SIHMA plans to launch the research and share the findings with different stakeholders to inform action and programming

to support young people on the move in the two towns to reduce the vulnerability and exposure to risk for young people in this area and to inform longer term policy advocacy.

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*Expected date of release: April 2024*

# PATHWAYS OF WELL-BEING AND BELONGING AMONG MIGRANT YOUTH IN CAPE TOWN

RESEARCH PROJECT by **SIHMA and SCCT - Lawrence House**

Children and young people with experiences of migration in South Africa are building their lives in contexts of deep insecurity. The process of finding a sense of home in their new environments is complex, and through this research, we aim to build an understanding of the barriers to and facilitators of this, through participatory research with the children and young people.

The aim is to explore the interaction between individual, social and structural factors in the construction of wellbeing and belonging for young people with migration experiences in the South African context. This research is oriented towards advocacy, to drive change.

In this reporting period, the study was approved by the University of Cape Town Human and Social Sciences Ethics Committee which led to the implementation of the data collection workshops with young people.

Two data collection workshops were conducted, the 1st one with the young people between the ages of 18 to 25 years and the 2nd one with young people aged 16 to 18 years of age.

In both the workshops, young people used zines to tell their own stories. Following this will be additional workshops where young people will plan ways and material to engage advocacy.

*Expected date of release: September 2024*



# A KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR FRAMEWORK AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REFUGEES INTEGRATION IN UGANDA

RESEARCH PROJECT by **SIHMA** funded by La Chapelle

Uganda continues to host the highest number of refugees in Africa, mostly from its neighbouring countries and is considered a role model for refugees integration with progressive refugees policies (Bohnet & Schimitz, 2019). Through its ReHoPE strategy Uganda aims at achieving integration and self-reliance through “integrated settlements” where refugees are given access to land, health care, schools, and other services (World Bank Group, 2016; Kreibaum, 2016; Schmidt, 2002). While evidence of the effectiveness of refugee settlements in delivering services and promoting integration, challenges in achieving full integration has been noted in Uganda. Furthermore, despite the overall settlement approach, which ties refugees to remote areas, there are also several self-settled refugees living in urban areas to seek for better economic opportunities and better living standards (Monteith & Lwasa, 2017), but there is little support and attention for their integration (Hovil, 2018). Therefore, to realise the goal of integration as a key factor for well-being and belonging for refugees as well as peaceful co-existence with the communities there are in, there is a need to look at the current frameworks, policies and indicators for integration and their implementation. There is also a need to take into consideration contextual factors in defining integration, from the refugees themselves, the local communities and people who work with refugees need to participate in defining integration. According to scholars, integration vary according to context, time, interests, values, and perspectives of the people concerned. Considering this, there is a need to consider these factors in key areas for successful integration (Robinson, 1998; Sigona, 2005; Tyson, 2017). To fully integrate the refugees into the host communities and include them in the country's developmental plans, their needs and perspective need to be taken into consideration in defining what integration looks like and the strategies that could work in achieving this. There is also need to take into account the voices of refugees who are not in settlements including those living in urban areas. With the above background in mind, Scalabrini Institute for Human Mobility in Africa (SIHMA), is conducting a study to map the presence of refugees in Uganda, understand their needs and develop a Key performance Indicator (KPIs) framework and recommendations for refugees integration. The findings of this study will be used in informing decisions around refugees' administration, policies and the implementation of welfare and advocacy programmes. As SIHMA, the main goal is to inform programmes focused on the welfare and integration of refugees in Uganda. Furthermore, data will be used to provide a benchmark or indicators that organisations working with refugees can use to ensure integration and to measure the effectiveness of their work. Additionally, as an outcome of this research SIHMA in collaboration with the other organisations would like to conduct training with organisations and stakeholders working with refugees on the KPI framework developed also conduct a pilot implementation of the KPIs framework in communities with refugees to further refine the framework. This study will use a mixed methodological approach to develop a KPI framework and recommendations for integration and wellbeing of refugees in Uganda through an intervention mapping framework. The methods that will be employed will include a desktop review, interviews, Delphi study and workshops to achieve the objectives of the study.

*Expected date of release: May 2025*





# RESEARCH BLOG POSTS

Our team prepares a weekly post for the Blog on the Move containing relevant insights on human mobility. The following are some of the blog posts that were published in 2023-24 on our website:

- 🌐 Overview of the Migration Atlas of Africa (09/05/2023)
- 🌐 What it means to be a refugee? (Narrative from the media) (22/08/2023)
- 🌐 Maternal Health of Migrants in South Africa (08/08/2023)
- 🌐 Human Rights Tattoo (19/09/2023)
- 🌐 “The nexus of human trafficking, asylum seekers and refugees” (28/11/2023)
- 🌐 The 1969 OAU Refugee Convention – A Vital Pillar for Human Dignity in Africa (05/12/2023)
- 🌐 THROUGH THEIR EYES: Migrant Narratives from the Rainbow Nation (23/01/2024)
- 🌐 International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM): Safeguarding the Rights of Migrant Women and Girls (06/03/2024)

# RESEARCH REQUEST

SIHMA has a long partnership with the Scalabrini Centre Cape Town (SCCT) its sister organisation in conducting research and events that are aimed at welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating people on the move. As a human mobility institute, SIHMA values research that adds to the understanding of human mobility in Africa, informs policies, programmes, and advocacy for people on the move. Therefore, SIHMA conducts research to inform the work of the SCCT and other organisations that work with people on the move, thus bridging the gap between research and practice. For example, the pathways of well-being and belonging among migrant youth in Cape Town project seeks to inform the work that the SCCT does.

Furthermore, SIHMA collaborates with the SCCT in aiding researchers, academics, and scholars to find beneficiaries who can become research. Research requests are submitted by the people interested through our online platform. The SIHMA and SCCT research panel reviews and ensures that all research that is conducted at SIHMA and SCCT is of high quality, novel, methodologically sound and informs policies and procedures aimed at enhancing the lives of people of the move. Would you like to interview us or our clients as participants in your research? The staff at the Scalabrini Institute for Human Mobility in Africa and Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town value the interest shown by students academics, and other researchers who seek the assistance of our organisation/s to aid their studies.

Should you like to request our involvement in your research, please complete the form available at the link <https://sihma.org.za/sihma-research-request> as this assists us in processing requests and identifying the staff member and/ or in exceptional cases clients best suited to your research needs.

It is important to note that we are not able to grant all of the research requests received but will review your application and let you know if your request has been approved or not by the panel that receives and considers interview/ research requests every month. Please, do not email any staff directly, as our organisations may not be able to correspond until your request has been approved.



## 2. PUBLICATIONS

SIHMA publish articles, briefing papers and reports available in dedicated section of our website. We also publish the AHMR in collaboration with the University of the Western Cape.

From 2015, the AHMR has been growing in its mission to disseminate research work on the subject of human mobility, contributing to the issues and opportunity for integration for people on the move. Academic scientific and novel research is published in the AHMR Journal and content is made accessible free of charge through our website in form of full text articles, infographics, and summaries from different audiences in our social media communication and Blog on the move on our website. We also prepare a monthly press review with relevant news about migration at a national, regional, and international level and select interesting articles and posts from other competent sources in the sector to monitor the most significant trends and topics.

# AFRICAN HUMAN MOBILITY REVIEW (AHMR)

The African Human Mobility Review (AHMR) is an interdisciplinary peer-reviewed open access academic journal accredited by the South African Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET). AHMR's aim is to encourage and facilitate the study of all aspects (socioeconomic, political, legislative, and developmental) of human mobility in Africa.

Through the publication of original research, policy discussions and evidence-based research papers, AHMR provides a comprehensive forum devoted exclusively to the analysis of contemporaneous trends, migration patterns and some of the most important migration-related issues.

AHMR is freely available to a global network of researchers, which facilitates having a significant impact within the discipline and increases its citation by others.

Its mission is to conduct and disseminate research that contributes to the understanding of human mobility across Africa and inform policies that ensure the rights and dignity of migrants, asylum-seekers, and refugees. AHMR is currently the only peer-reviewed African-based journal on migration studies. This unique journal targets a wide range of stakeholders such as researchers, academics, policymakers, students, and practitioners.

Thus, AHMR's influence extends to civil society, government departments and research/academic institutions in Africa. Three crucial factors set this journal apart: its exclusive focus on migration in Africa; its accessibility online, which allows it to reach a wide audience; and its free-of-charge stance. Indeed, over the years, AHMR readership has increased, as evidenced by views and downloads. Interestingly, to allay concerns of academics who view online journal publications as carrying less weight than print journals, AHMR prints only few copies it publishes and distributes to South African universities each year.

In 2023, AHMR celebrated the 9th year of its original foundation. Since 2014, AHMR, a joint collaboration between the Scalabrini Institute for Human Mobility in Africa and the University of the Western Cape has published over 150 peer-reviewed articles, increasing the distribution of authorship across the African continent. AHMR's focus is to ensure high scientific quality and rigorous research disseminated widely.

Therefore, to improve the quality of the work and meet the request of contributors for high standard publications, we prioritize academic indexing. Since 2022, AHMR is indexed online in three of the world top general indexes: Scopus, Scielo and the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ). We believe this crucial step will increase the reach of articles published and better serve the need of researchers. Furthermore, to increase representation of article submissions from non-English-speaking regions of Africa, AHMR's editorial team is working to foster dialogue with French-speaking researchers in Africa.

The editorial team would like to thank all board members, editors, reviewers, authors, and readers for their continued engagement. We are confident that in the next future the African Human Mobility Review will continue its mission towards disseminating research and providing a significant resource for scholars, practitioners, and students.

# AHMR EDITORIAL BOARD

Our prestigious **Editorial Board** includes:

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**AHMR VOLUME 9  
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## **SPECIAL ISSUE "DE-CENTERING THE STUDY OF SINO-AFRICAN MIGRATIONS"**

This special issue was realised in partnership with the Canada Excellence Research Chair in Migration and Integration Program at Toronto Metropolitan University. The content is available online on our website.





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**AHMR Editor-in-chief**  
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Prof Dinbabo completed doctoral studies in Development Studies at the University of the Western Cape. He also has two master's degrees, one in development management (Ruhr University Germany) and another in development studies (University of the Western Cape). He is director of the Institute for Social Development and a member of many boards and research networks. He has sound knowledge of social and economic development, microsimulation, modelling, and migration. He is the chief editor of our journal, *African Human Mobility Review*.



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Prof. Tevera is a Human Geographer and is currently Extraordinary Professor at UWC. He was Professor at the University of Zimbabwe before joining the University of Eswatini. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Sierra Leone, as master's degree from Queen's University (Canada) and a Ph.D. from the University of Cincinnati (USA). His research is interdisciplinary and studies the interface of human geography and development studies with Southern Africa as the geographical focus. His work is focused on livelihoods and spatial strategies in the informal economy, migration geographies, environmental security, migration and urban food.

**To submit articles for publication or collaborate with the Journal as a reviewer you can access the specific menu of the website [www.sihma.org.za](http://www.sihma.org.za) with a new, clear and intuitive graphic layout. The electronic management of the peer reviewing process of the articles allows an immediate update on the contents and facilitates the dynamics of interaction with the Editorial board and management staff.**

# AFRICA ON THE MOVE 2023

Main source:  
2023, UNHCR Global Trends Report  
Compilation by Paige Poulin

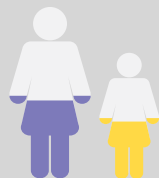
WORLD'S POPULATION LIVING OUTSIDE  
THEIR COUNTRY OF NATIONALITY IN 2023

**184 MILLION** 2.3% OF TOTAL  
POPULATION WORLDWIDE

Source: World Bank Group, World Development Report: Migrants,  
Refugees and Societies . 2023

ACCORDING TO UNHCR 2023 PLANNING FIGURES,  
44 MILLION PEOPLE IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA  
ARE DISPLACED, UP FROM 38.3 MILLION AT THE  
END OF 2021. MOST (60%) ARE IDPS. AFRICA  
HOSTS THREE-QUARTERS OF ALL NEW INTERNAL  
DISPLACEMENTS.

Source: February 2023. ISS-today, Record numbers of  
displaced Africans face worsening prospects

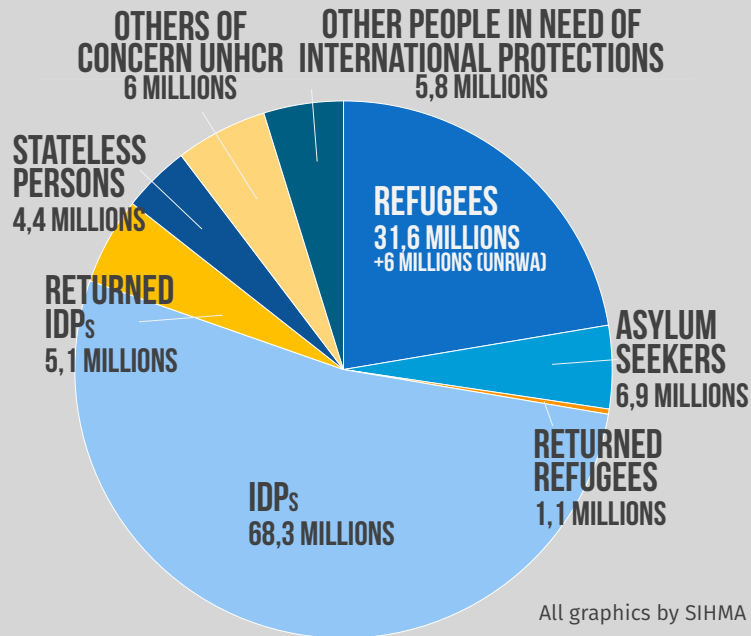


WOMEN AND GIRLS REPRESENTED  
51% OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED  
PEOPLE IN THE WORLD

CHILDREN ACCOUNT FOR 30% OF THE  
WORLD'S POPULATION, BUT 40% OF  
ALL FORCIBLY DISPLACED PEOPLE

Source: Global Trends Report 2023

**117.3  
MILLION** TOTAL FORCIBLY  
DISPLACED POPULATIONS  
IN THE WORLD (END YEAR 2023)



All graphics by SIHMA

# FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS POPULATIONS IN AFRICA

Source: UNHCR Regional Fact Sheet 2023	<b>East and Horn of Africa &amp; Great Lakes</b>	<b>Southern Africa</b>	<b>West and Central Africa</b>
<b>Forcibly Displaced/Stateless Person</b>	23.6 million	8.4 million	13.4 million
<b>Asylum-seekers/ Refugees</b>	2.3 million	1.1 million	2.3 million
<b>Returned refugees</b>	578, 360	11, 000	100,000
<b>IDPs</b>	19.4 million	7.3 million	8.1 million
<b>Returned IDPs</b>	10.7 million	510,000	1.9 million
<b>Others of concern to UNHCR</b>	-	-	0.1 million



**IN MID 2023, 75% OF FORCIBLY DISPLACES INDIVIDUALS WORLDWIDE WERE HOSTED IN LOW-MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES.**

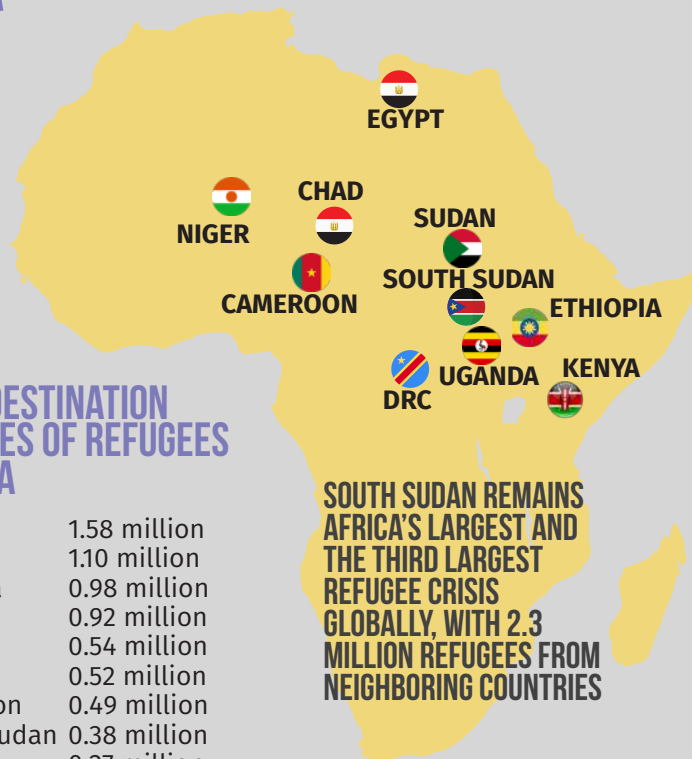
Source: UNCHR, 2023



**AMONG 92 COUNTRIES THAT HAVE CONDUCTED A MIGRATION GOVERNANCE INDICATORS (MGI) ASSESSMENT, 32% HAVE DEVELOPED SPECIFIC MEASURES THAT PROMOTE THE ETHICAL RECRUITMENT OF MIGRANT WORKERS.**

Source: Migration Governance Indicators, 2023.

# 10 AFRICAN COUNTRIES HOST 7 MILLION REFUGEES



Source: 2023. UNHCR Global Trends Forced Displacement

## TOP 10 MIGRATION DESTINATIONS FOR ALL OF AFRICA

1. South Africa	2.86 million
2. Cote d'Ivoire	2.56 million
3. Uganda	1.72 million
4. Sudan	1.38 million
5. Nigeria	1.31 million
6. Ethiopia	1.09 million
7. Kenya	1.05 million
8. DRC	0.95 million
9. South Sudan	0.88 million
10. Libya	0.83 million

## 10 GLOBAL COUNTRIES HOST MORE THAN HALF OF ALL REFUGEES (UNITED NATION HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, 2023). ONLY ONE IS IN AFRICA.

1. Colombia
2. Peru
3. Germany
4. Poland
5. Sudan
- 6. Uganda**
7. Pakistan
8. Bangladesh
9. Russian Federation
10. Turkey



## REPORTED MIGRANT FATALITIES AND DISAPPEARANCE ON AFRICAN MIGRATION ROUTES (IOM, 2023)

Route:	Estimated People:
1. Mediterranean	2,500 people
2. Atlantic to Canary Island	3,200 people
3. Sahara Desert	3,500 people
4. Horn towards Gulf States	4,200 people
5. Southern Route	4,250 people



## SOME SOLUTIONS

**158,700 REFUGEES WERE RESETTLED IN 2023, ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT STATISTICS. UNHCR SUBMITTED 155,500 REFUGEES TO STATES FOR RESETTLEMENT.**

**32,200 STATELESS PEOPLE HAD THEIR NATIONALITY CONFIRMED OR ACQUIRED CITIZENSHIP DURING THE YEAR 2023.**

**6.1 MILLION DISPLACED PEOPLE RETURNED TO THEIR AREAS OR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN IN 2023, INCLUDING 5.1 MILLION INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE AND OVER 1 MILLION REFUGEES.**

Source: UNHCR Global Trends Report 2023





### 3. TRAINING, CAPACITY BUILDING AND ONLINE RESOURCES

Teaching and training are essential to allow migrants to access to knowledge about their rights and ensuring their dignity. SIHMA's mission is to conduct and disseminate research that contributes to the understanding of human mobility and informs policies that ensure rights dignity of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in Africa. We realised this in the implementation of seminars, workshops, and training sessions. We are still busy elaborating new curriculum for specific targeted audience.

# TRAINING @ SIHMA

## GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN MOBILITY

This course aims to provide the essentials for the study and understanding of the phenomenon of migration for those who are approaching this field for the first time for work, study or simply for personal interest. Historical and structural elements of migration, terminology of the subject, description of the main actors and dynamics, interdisciplinary dimension of human mobility (social studies, politics and defense, economics).

## TRAINING OF PASTORAL AGENTS OF HUMAN MOBILITY

This course is particularly aimed at all those, religious or lay, who work in the field of migration and directly or indirectly assist individual migrants or ethnic or linguistic communities. It aims to provide the basic elements for addressing the topic of migration and at the same time offers a biblical and theological framework for supporting pastoral ministry with migrants in the light of the teaching and practice of the Catholic Church. In addition to the more traditional presentations and lectures, the course offers multimedia material and practical workshops in which participants can interact with each other and with the facilitators.

## TRAINING FOR GOVERNMENTS AND LOCAL ADMINISTRATIONS

This course is intended for government officials, civil servants and staff working in the field of migration who directly or indirectly assist individual migrants or ethnic or linguistic communities in the public arena or within governmental and non-governmental organisations. It aims to provide the basic elements of human mobility from a legal, policy and administrative perspective. Areas of interest include: the defence and protection of the human rights of migrants and refugees, international legislation, the national legal framework, detention, and the relationship between public bodies and non-governmental organisations. It consists of several modules including lectures, multimedia contributions, group work and case studies.

## COMMUNICATION, MEDIA AND THE NARRATIVE OF HUMAN MOBILITY

This course is designed for people involved in communication within organisations or offices dealing with migration issues. It provides an orientation framework for those who want to know more about the reality of migrants and refugees on the African continent, beyond the stereotypes or biased information that is often conveyed in society or in the media. Among the tools offered are numerous multimedia contributions (in collaboration with other partners) for personal and group analysis and comparison with other experts in communication or artistic and video production.

In the implementation of this mission, and particularly dissemination, SIHMA has focused on sharing information on migration through a series of seminars, workshops and training sessions. We organised trainings for NPOs and pastoral agents of migration and we gave our contribution to University courses and the African Union curriculum for governments and public administration.

SIHMA is expanding its training programme and drawing on its experience together with its research outputs, including the AHMR journal publications, in the hope of delivering the best and most up to date training and seminars on pertinent migration topics. Training topics include exploring effective refugee protection, refugee status determination and recent changes in legislation, migrant children's rights, migrants' labour rights, access to health care and mental health rights and education rights, communication and narrative of migration. SIHMA is interested in ensuring that training is targeted in accordance with training demand. Hence, subject to the area of training being in line with SIHMAs objectives and within our expertise, we invite you or any government department or organisation or community that would like to receive training in a particular area to please contact [admin@sihma.org.za](mailto:admin@sihma.org.za) and training may be facilitated accordingly.

COMING SOON ON OUR WEBSITE

## SIHMA ONLINE RESOURCES

SIHMA continues its mission to disseminate findings of research, articles, and other material for wider and more correct information on human mobility. Our target audience is very broad, ranging from academics to users seeking information on migration in Africa.

It includes teachers, students and staff specialised in study and research, but also non-profit and civil society workers, members of international organisations and volunteers engaged in field work supporting people on the move.

But every person, even those who are simply curious to understand more or better the dynamics of migration flows, policies, economic impact, social dynamics, and the representation of human mobility in media and culture is a privileged interlocutor for us. That is why we publish articles, blogposts and have started a section dedicated to online resources, offering information, infographics, figures but also bibliographies or references so that everyone can continue his or her own research, broaden their knowledge, and deepen their vision.

The intention is to have an up-to-date overview of the most interesting subjects of study and insight conducted at various levels. We work to promote a better knowledge of migration, to understand and interpret it by creating conditions so that the movement of people is possible in freedom and dignity for all.

## > NARRATIVES ON HUMAN MOBILITY

This new section aims to dispel harmful myths about migration. In the media, migrants are often misunderstood and vilified. By providing historical context and firsthand accounts of migration, the project's goal is to counter harmful misconceptions about migrants and provide the viewer with a more complete understanding of the process of migration.

The project includes book and movie reviews (from African authors), media products from different platforms, cultural events. Videos of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers telling stories about their journeys and their communities. The collection of stories will showcase the wide variety of backgrounds, circumstances, struggles, and hopes held among people on the move and offer their perspective on human mobility.

## > VISUAL HISTORY OF MIGRATION

This project will be formatted as a flowing visual timeline with information on human migration patterns throughout history. The timeline highlights historical events or periods that have had an impact on the movement of people across the continent: from wars to major discoveries, from colonisation to independence processes, from climatic events to major economic and social changes.

Drawing on historical sources, commentaries and news, and documents of the time, we would like to help the reader understand the evolution of migration in Africa better. The data are accompanied by infographics, images and videos with clear references.



# ATLAS OF AFRICAN MIGRATION

In an attempt to provide an overarching understanding of the complex migration pattern of migration within and beyond the continent, SIHMA has initiated a first-of-its-kind project dubbed the “Atlas of African Migration” that will provide the migration profile of all the 54 countries in the continent of Africa - with one click on the Atlas. The project is executed through a desk-top research method based on the existing literature and data to provide an understanding of the complex movement (mixed migration) of Africans not only to Europe and America (South-North migration) but to all other parts of the world and most especially within the continent (South-South migration) and within the country (Internal migration). Also, emphasis is laid on returnees. The atlas also seeks to provide an understanding of the complex migration patterns that characterized movement within the continent. Central dimensions of the profile include geographical information of the country that provides some basic information of the country, historical background of migration within and out of the country and the factors that drive such migration, policies that govern migration within the country, migration-related government institutions, an understanding of what informs internal migration, information on conflict and disaster-related displacement, statistics of immigrants and emigrants and the top receiving countries of emigrants, gender and child dimension of migration, labour migration, statistics of asylum seekers and refugees and an understanding of the drivers of forced displacement, human trafficking, remittances, return and returnees and migration-related international organizations within the country. Linked to the Atlas of African Migration, SIHMA seeks to provide a narrative of migration (videos, movies, books, culture) from the perspective of African people on the move. Content and links to the narrative of migration will be found on a designated section of the SIHMA website.





## 4. EVENTS AND COMMUNICATION

Events and activities, seminars and conferences are usually a huge portion of our work of dissemination of findings and of networking in the field of human mobility. SIHMA keeps busy in multiple initiatives, attending virtual meetings and webinars on many different platforms. But we were also finally able to attend in person meetings and activities.

# EVENTS ORGANISED OR ATTENDED BY SIHMA

1 June 2023

## SCALABRINI DAY EVENT

Workshop by **SIHMA, SCCT and Lawrence House**

First of June marks every year the commemoration of St John Scalabrini, founder of our network and promoter of the pastoral care of migrants, refugees, and people on the move. SIHMA, together with its sister organisations Scalabrini Centre and Lawrence House, gathered on this day at the Scalabrini Centre Hall to celebrate this event. This year it was special as it followed the canonization of St John Scalabrini as a Saint in a ceremony held in Rome on 9 October 2022. The event began by highlighting the history of the Scalabrini Mission starting from the early works with Italian migrants in the 19th Century to the present day works of the Scalabrini Fathers globally. Furthermore, the history of the Scalabrini Mission in Cape Town was also highlighted. A short snippet from the canonization event was played which gave a background of the work that John Scalabrini did over the years and why he was declared as a saint. In his speech, Pope Francis reiterated the continuous need to welcome, protect, promote, and integrate migrants. According to him, "the exclusion of migrants is scandalous and criminal". During the event, information on the new Scalabrini mission that has opened on the 11th of January 2023 in Uganda (Arua and Kampala districts) was introduced, whereby the two Fathers Fr Walter Diaz and Fr John Kawisha gave an overview of the pastoral work that they are doing with refugees and the opening of their first house in Uganda.

Building onto this SIHMA presented its research work including proposed research in Uganda, to map the presence, needs of refugees in Uganda and develop a Key Performance Indicator Framework for refugees integration in Uganda. This is aimed at informing the new mission by the Scalabrini Fathers and advocacy, support, and programmes for refugees in Uganda. The Scalabrini Centre director engaged the team members around the 4 verbs (welcome, protect, promote, integrate) on the work with migrants



to understand how these inform the work. As part of this, different colour codes that were recently developed were unveiled including how they link with the different programmes that Scalabrini Centre is offering.

In conclusion, a film developed by Scalabrini titled "the Beehive" was screened during the event to show some of the work that the organisation is doing. Through the reflections from the film, the importance of supporting the migrants and refugees through different programmes was reinforced.

3 - 7 July 2023

## AU TRAINING OF TRAINERS ON MIGRATION GOVERNANCE

Workshop by **African Union and ICMPD**, Nairobi (Kenya)

SIHMA's Head of research participated in the **Training of Trainers (ToT) on migration governance** which was held in Nairobi Kenya. Conducted by AU Commission in coordination with the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and supported under the AU-EU Continent-to-Continent Migration and Mobility Dialogue (C2CMMDD), the training gathered a cohort of experts from AU Member States and Regional Economic Communities. *The purpose of the workshop was to train the experts that will train officials* (Regional Economic Communities, governmental organizations, local

government institutions, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) *in order to enhance migration management in Africa.*

The training came after a 3 year journey by AU Commission of developing **a training manual on migration governance** in response to a felt need by Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) of the African Union that identified a gap between their commitment to address the migration challenges they face and their technical capacity to address them. To address this gap, the Commission completed the “Training on Migration –Governance: Handbook for Trainers” which constitutes a training manual for a 5-day training on migration governance for migration experts in Africa. Also SIHMA was involved in the process. The handbook consists of 7 chapters on Migration Governance as follows: Migration in Africa, International Migration Law, Migration and Development, Migration situational analysis and migration profiles, Establishing institutional coordinating mechanisms for managing migration, Formulating migration policies, Mainstreaming migration policies into national development plans. The training was delivered by a training expert Marketa Zelenka with the support from resource persons from IOM, AU Commission, and the University of the Western Cape. The 5 days were filled with intense engagements and trainings on methods and skills of conducting trainings. The participants of the training also delivered mock trainings and presentations (one individual expert presentation and one mock training in tandem). During the days all the 7 modules were covered, and the sessions allowed for peer learning, joint reflection, and feedback, based on jointly agreed formats and principles. The sessions allowed the participants to review their training skills and further deepen them by the exposure, learning from experts and peers. The ToT further strengthened the participants training skills in preparation for future trainings with the other stakeholders.

9 May 2023

### **“WHAT’S EATING MY MIND?”**

Film screening event by **STEPS, SIHMA, and SCCT**, Cape Town  
SCCT and SIHMA hosted a film screening event for migrants and refugees based on the movie titled, “What’s Eating my Mind”, a production from STEPS South Africa’s Generation Africa project which features 25 medium and short films of the lived realities of African youth, through the lens of migration across 16 Anglophone and Francophone countries

of Africa. The Kenyan filmmaker, Noella Luka, was hospitalized and diagnosed with bipolar disorder and showcases complications that she navigates maintaining her mental health and her experience is portrayed in the movie. Various stakeholders including migrants and refugees and representatives of various organisations, participated in the event that began with welcoming remarks and introductions, before the screening of the film, that is available online for free. The main purpose of the screening this film was to have an understanding on migration and mental health, the way it is represented in this documentary and reflections about the existing gaps and available structures and mechanisms of support. After the filming of the event a discussion facilitated by Shingi (the SCCT Women’s platform Manager), and Etienne (the SCCT Welfare Consultant) was conducted. In terms of the way media portrays mental health in the lives of refugees and migrants, the participants agreed that the film portrays or reflects the reality of some migrants and refugees experiencing mental conditions. As per their reflection, whilst the minority of people in the society understand mental health, the majority do not understand and recognise mental condition especially the most common ones for example stress, depression, and anxiety, its only when the mental condition presents itself with serious symptoms when people act. Furthermore, the participants indicated that mental health is not something that people talk about, mostly some people are not comfortable to discuss issues of mental health whilst others ignore it as long as there are no physical symptoms. Linked to this, there is ignorance when it comes to mental condition thus, many people do not get proper diagnosis and support. Additionally, the attendees of the event indicated that mental health could impair with everyday functioning for example work, thoughts, feelings and actions, reflecting lack of awareness, understanding and acceptance of mental health conditions. The valuable inputs given by the audience confirmed the importance of this kind of format, where the narrative of a certain aspect of migration is portrayed in different ways and discussed to achieve a deeper understanding and overcome common bias and stigmas. Furthermore, it was also noted that although there are services in Cape Town for mental health and psychosocial support, few of the migrants and refugees know and utilise these services. A list of available structures and mechanisms for support compiled by SIHMA and the SCCT was shared with the attendees of the event in addition to the services that they were already aware of.

# WHAT'S EATING MY MIND?



**GENERATION  
Africa**

**A FILM SCREENING EVENT  
ON HOW MEDIA PORTRAY MENTAL HEALTH  
IN THE LIFE OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES**

14 May 2023

**"STAY UP"**

Film screening event by **STEPS** and **SIHMA**, Cape Town

A second screening was organised by SIHMA and STEPS in partnership with the St John Catholic Parish in Maitland who hosts a large community of migrants and refugees. Our main goal was to bring this mutual learning process into local communities. Also "Stay Up" is a production from STEPS South Africa's Generation Africa project and features a story on Miriam, a survivor of childhood sexual abuse in Mali who escaped to Burkina Faso to build a new life. She uses dance and choreography to heal from the trauma and to confront her fears.

After the introduction of our researchers and the welcoming remarks from the parish priest Fr Zane Godwin, the discussion that followed the movie screening was facilitated by Elaine Maane from STEPS. The main purpose was to reflect on issues of trauma, resilience and healing experienced by migrants as indicated in the documentary. Most

importantly, reflecting based on the context or the environment that the attendees are living in or surrounded by. They indicated that the film portrays one's ability to heal or being able to bounce back after facing trauma by concentrating on strengths or on positive areas and they associated themselves to the decision of the protagonist to move to another country in order to find healing and new opportunities. The film triggered some thoughts around multiple social issues that are being faced, including traumatic events and how people struggle to find a solution due to different reasons: fear, discrimination, and stigma which blocks some people from stepping out and healing. This situation is worse when the person who has triggered the trauma is a relative or an influential figure in the society, that is unfortunately a common phenomenon in the communities that they live. Other issues are language barriers that prevent from asking for help or the fact that the authorities where they are supposed to report these crimes to sometimes abuse them. Attendees also confirm that - as in the film - even if you are trying to find yourself, responsibilities will still come (expectation from your family to send money home to support). Resilience was also noted as an aspect that one must define for themselves, the need to imagine a future and having a vision, that can give them strength to work hard to achieve their dreams even in the face of adversity. Traumatic experiences can also impact one's physical well-being, therefore you need to be cognisant of both your physical and mental well-being to adequately heal. One of the attendees pointed out that, "your body does not lie", indicating the connection between the body and experiences. Therefore, one needs to constantly work on overcoming emotions and feelings related to some experiences to heal holistically.

Furthermore, from the discussion it was reiterated that support structures for people who have experienced trauma in Africa are limited or non-existent unlike in some contexts. People do not know where to turn to for help and many at times these topics are ignored, or people are not comfortable talking about it as nothing is happening. To comprehensively address trauma, the attendees indicated that there is need to discuss about the real contributors, which many people rarely focus on, and to deal with the root causes.

We hope that the attendees will be able to continue this conversation in their community, bringing more awareness and searching for opportunities to recognise and support those who are facing these traumas.



# SIHMA COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

We disseminate the findings of our research, publications, events and news about migration through different channels and media:



## WEBSITE

You can easily navigate our website [www.sihma.org.za](http://www.sihma.org.za), finding all you search about research, publications and reports, our online journal AHMR, resources concerning training and capacity building, events, and news on human mobility.



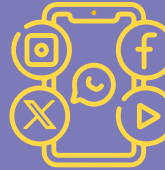
## BLOG ON THE MOVE

Our blog is an easy and quick way to know more about news and events concerning migration on the African continent and worldwide, through interesting articles, summaries of academic research, press and media reviews, and much more. Blog posts offer an in-depth look at migration issues and are posted every week on Tuesday.



## MONTHLY PRESS REVIEW

This is our monthly compilation of recent articles and news from various press products, such as newspapers, magazines and increasingly, also online publications. All articles are related to human mobility in Africa and offer an overview at national, regional, and continental level. It is published in the first week of the month.



## SOCIAL NETWORKS

**Facebook** SIHMA Scalabrini Institute for Human Mobility in Africa - SIHMA @sihmacapetown

**X** @SIHMA\_africa

**YouTube channel** SIHMA Scalabrini

**LinkedIn** SIHMA - Scalabrini Institute for Human Mobility in Africa

**Instagram** SIHMA Scalabrini Institute for Human



## NEWSLETTER

All subscribers who want to keep in touch with us can receive our quarterly newsletter, with insights from the latest issue of our journal, news from our communication team, upcoming events promoted or supported by SIHMA and our partner network. It is generally sent 3 times a year, in correspondence with the release of our journal.



# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

SIHMA has had a very tough year as it experienced a significant dip in funding (both from overseas and local sources), despite the increased need and calls for assistance with research and study.

It has been a year of investing in projects, research and in personnel also, to ensure that SIHMA remains at the forefront of publications, knowledge and experience within the sector. This has been a strategic move by the Board and management.

SIHMA at the end of every financial year ringfences carefully any remaining restricted funding, making sure that donor and funder wishes are fulfilled and that these funds remain protected until designated activities have been completed.

SIHMA reported a loss for the financial year 2024, which was funded through its accumulated reserves.

The SIHMA finance team continues to provide a control environment that ensures transparent and accountable reporting to all management, the board and funders.

SIHMA looks forward to a more financially rewarding year in 2025 and welcomes any new partners and funders who wish to be part of the Scalabrini family of academics and researchers, as together we aim to assist persons on the move and those most in need.

**A SPECIAL THANKS  
TO OUR DONORS, FUNDERS,  
AND SUPPORTERS**

<b>PROFIT &amp; LOSS STATEMENT</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>
Support from Headquarters	313,698	707,288
Grant Income - Local	105000	36,000
Grant Income - Overseas	592,497	32,982
Income Generating Projects	1,011,392	857,494
Other Income	21,166	26,627
Interest Earnings	52,297	78,002
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>2,096,050</b>	<b>1,738,394</b>
Research & Publications	409,338	401,822
Operational Expenses	555,304	345,426
Website & Communications	30,886	39,350
Project Expenses	250,407	399,963
Staff Costs	523,314	822,620
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>1,769,248</b>	<b>2,009,180</b>
<b>Funding remaining (ring-fenced)</b>	<b>326,801</b>	<b>(270,787)</b>
<b>BALANCE SHEET</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>
Cash on Hand	1,287,340	1,193,527
Fixed Assets	5,492	12,477
Liabilities	571,824	397,433
Equity	1,081,982	811,195

Numbers in ZA Rands

Compiled by Malcolm Salida (29 July 2024)

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For communications and media

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For our journal AHMR

[ahmr@sihma.org.za](mailto:ahmr@sihma.org.za)

Design by SIHMA Communication Staff

All photos from SIHMA Media Archive

and SCCT Archive

except

Adjamé Market, Abidjan, Ivory Coast

Photo by [Eva Blue](#) on [Unsplash](#) (cover photo)

Woman standing while holding black phone

Photo by [Angelo Moleele](#) on [Unsplash](#) (pag. 34)

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# PEOPLE BEHIND THE FIGURES