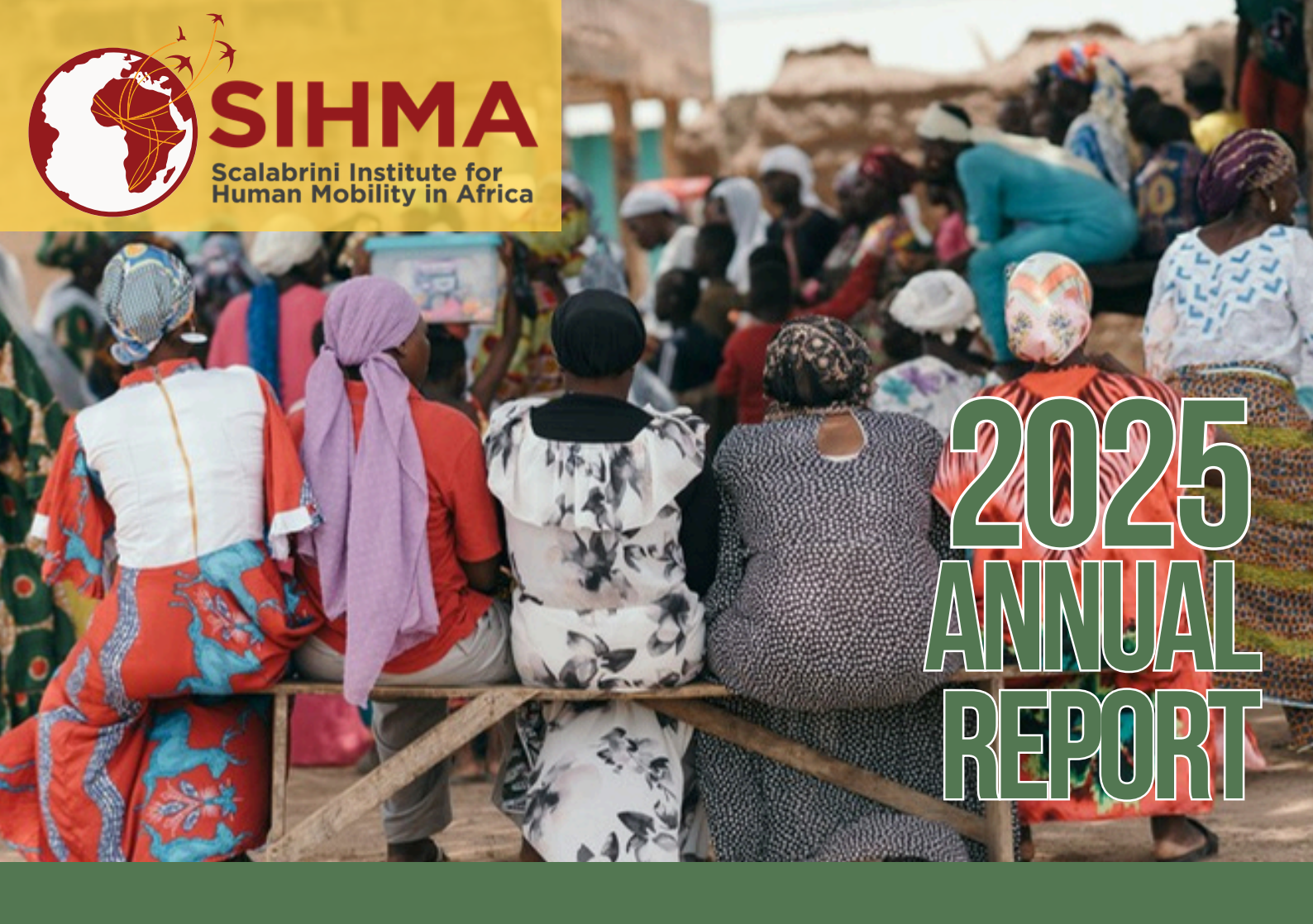




SIHMA

Scalabrini Institute for
Human Mobility in Africa



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

**"WHETHER MIGRATION IS GOOD OR
BAD IS NOT A CONCERN WHAT IS
IMPORTANT IS THAT MIGRATION IS
HAPPENING AND IT MUST BE DEALT
WITH CREATIVELY."**

ST JOHN BAPTIST SCALABRINI
LETTER TO POPE ST PIUS X, 1904



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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Looking at the numerous reports, activities, projects and interactions that SIHMA has been involved in over the past year, it might seem a daunting task to summarise in a few words the focus and purpose of all this intensive work.

However, as this brief introduction to our annual report compels me to provide a comprehensive answer in just a few lines, I have no hesitation in drawing on our fundamental mission as a research centre: to understand human mobility in Africa.

After all, this is our mandate and this is the expertise that, step by step, with diligence and commitment, we have sought to acquire and put into practice ever since our foundation.

And if there is ever a time when 'understanding human mobility' is more complex and necessary than ever, it is precisely the present moment we are living through – not only because migration continues to be a trending topic in daily debate, but because of the pitfalls that a hasty and superficial interpretation of it may conceal.

This is the first and essential step towards correctly interpreting reality, understanding data and trends, analysing the social and economic landscape, identifying gaps and areas for improvement in policies and their implementation, and uncovering the hidden trajectories of the most vulnerable among those on the move.

And we have sought to do this by putting our resources and our passion for humanity at the service of this cause, knowing that every contribution towards a better understanding of human mobility can lead to improved lives and build a more sustainable and inclusive future. Enjoy the read!

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.

As Scalabrini Congregation and network, according to our official documents, we strive to carry out pastoral activities, social initiatives and projects that are, as far as possible:

SPECIFIC - focused on our specific mission, that is serving migrants, refugees, seafarers and people on the move.

SIGNIFICANT - committed to a ministry and service that is relevant and able to be a seed of newness in the local Church and society.

EXEMPLARY - being testimonials of our charism, so that others can join our effort and 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.

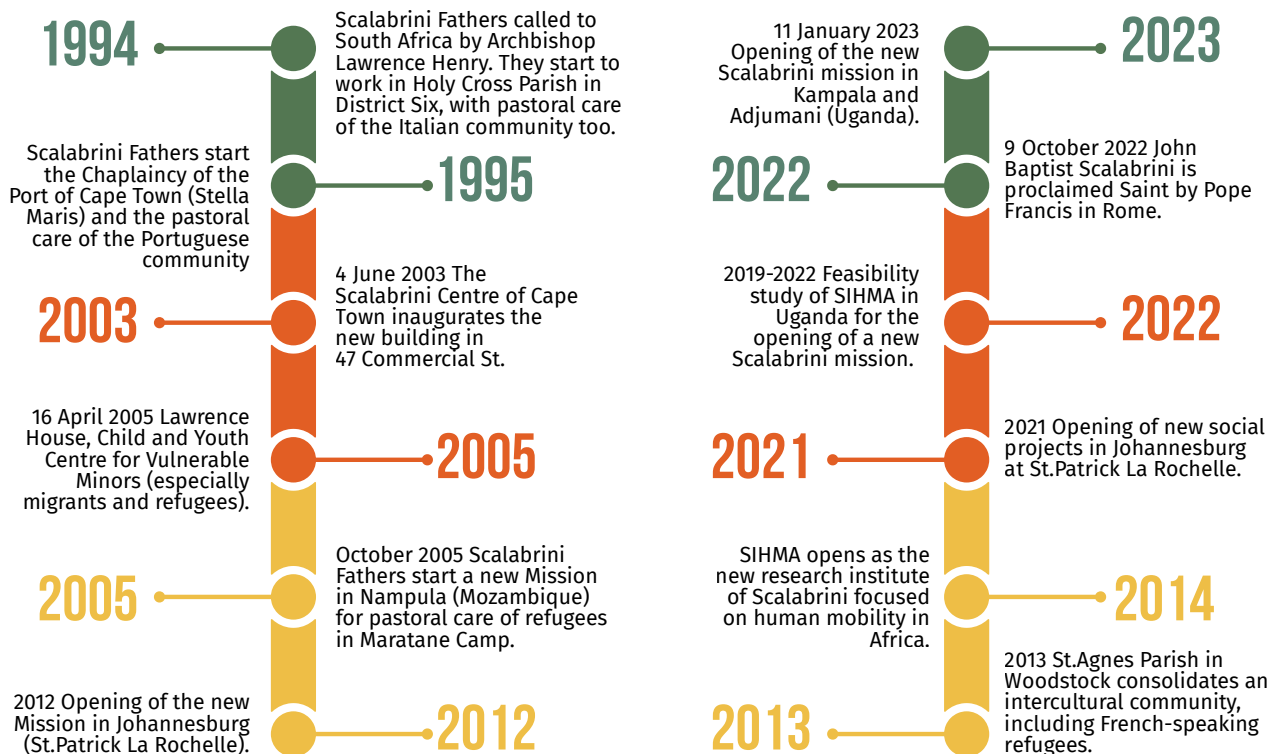
Today, the Scalabrini Congregation works in South Africa and more than 35 countries of the world, according to the Scalabrini ethos and inspired by universal values such as respect for human dignity and diversity. Fathers, with the invaluable help of lay people, exercise their ministry of consecrated 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, advocacy and promotion of human rights, support to seafarers
- 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 have done with migrants, refugees and seafarers, inspired by the teaching of St John Baptist Scalabrini.





BOARD OF TRUSTEES

We live in turbulent times marked by dehumanising politics, brutal wars serving the powerful, exclusionary economics, environmental destruction, and climate change all of which destabilise communities and disproportionately affect the poor, becoming push factors in global migration.

As a Board operating in this context, our role is to discern the signs of the times, empower the vulnerable, and build liberatory agency. While history bends towards exclusion and populism, we, aligned with the Scalabrini mission, are committed to showing how a single act can still shift history. Our faith-based roots call us to draw from tradition, activism, and learning to chart dynamic paths of study, praxis, understanding, and hope. As Scalabrini said, “the vulnerable are in the pupil of God’s eye.” We therefore have a duty to protect, enhance, and honour human dignity.

This discernment also means embracing respectful discourse and responding to the legacy of Pope Francis. His death on Easter Monday was a loss for the mobile community. Yet his enduring legacy offers vital tools to resist narrow, securitised refugee policies. Through his writings and actions, Pope Francis championed a rights-based approach, shifting the global conversation. He reminded us that “migrants and refugees are no pawns on the chessboard of humanity” but human beings with a desire not just to have and know, but to be more. These final words “being” and “more” are crucial. His focus on dignity urges us to promote what enhances humanity and reject what dehumanises.

SIHMA's pride lies in its methodological shift from deductive to inductive thinking from imposing frameworks onto reality to drawing insights from lived experiences. This grounded, dialogical approach, aided by the sciences, fosters theory-building and evidence-based solutions. Our publications, from peer-reviewed journals to Vatican-commissioned research, showcase a serious intellectual commitment to real-world issues.

Quoting Albert Szent-Gyorgyi, “Research is seeing what everybody else has seen and thinking what nobody else has thought.” In the face of complex challenges and hostile discourse, we seek new, grounded insights. Our Africa-focused work recognises that 70% of refugees reside in neighbouring nations, with low- and middle-income countries hosting 76% of them. Africa, often misrepresented as a source of migration problems, is also a major host and contributor to care. These overlooked realities challenge dominant stereotypes and reveal a continent carrying much of the humanitarian burden.

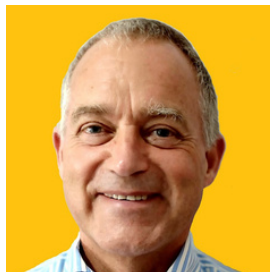
SIHMA continues to be at the forefront of research, offering new paradigms and ground-breaking ideas. We are proud of our achievements and optimistic about the future. As a Board, we fully support this essential praxis in one of the world's most contested and vital areas.

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



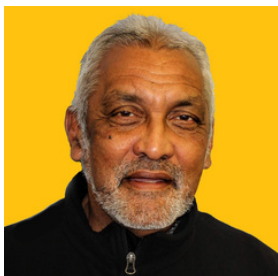
Fr. Jorge Guerra
Chairperson

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.



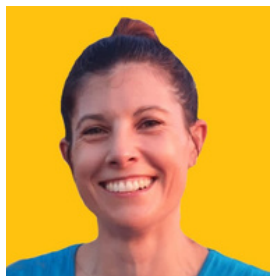
Willem Van Schalkwyk
Policies expert, Treasurer

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.



Fr. Peter John Pearson
Advocacy expert

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



Emmerentia Erasmus
Migration study specialist

Emmerentia is a migration specialist with over 15 years of global experience, including work in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and the Pacific. With a Master's in Development Studies from LSE, she consults for the UN and other international organisations. Emmerentia has contributed to key regional migration policies and focuses on creating safe and regular migration pathways. She is based in Cape Town.



Shireen Motara
NPOs and Gender Trainer

Shireen Motara is the CEO of Tara Transform and Founder of The Next Chapter Studio. A Certified Coach and African Feminist, she champions women's leadership, rights, and economic independence. With two decades of experience in strategy, coaching, and social justice, she works with global agencies and co-founded Young Women Thrive to empower young women as changemakers.



John Kawisha
Migration study specialist

Fr. John is a Scalabrinian priest and project manager of social initiatives in Uganda. With an advance in studies in theology and human mobility from Rome, he serves South Sudanese refugees in Nyumanzi Settlement and offers pastoral support in the Archdiocese of Kampala and Diocese of Arua.

SIHMA TEAM



Filippo Ferraro

Executive Director

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 narratives 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

Rachel is the Head of Research at SIHMA. She holds a PhD in Gender Studies degree from the University of Venda and has previously worked for mothers2mothers as a researcher responsible for conceptualising and conducting Evaluation and Operations Research.

Rachel 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.



Dr Muluh Cletus Momasoh

Deputy Researcher

deputy-researcher@sihma.org.za

Born and raised in a rural community in the North West Region of Cameroon, 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.



Dhano Letchman

Admin Officer

admin@sihma.org.za

Dhano is an organized and detail-oriented professional with a focus on efficiency and continuous improvement. She has previously worked at SIHMA (2021-2022) as an Office Administrator of the Project at St Patrick Centre in LaRocheville (Johannesburg), and then for the International Labour Organization office (ILO) in Cape Town as Financial Administrator. Previously, she worked for more than 20 years at Telkom. Throughout her career, she has excelled in managing operations, finances, and administrative functions by breaking down complex tasks into manageable steps and optimizing processes for better outcomes. She values data-driven decision-making, which has been integral to her professional approach, and she is currently completing a Data Science course to further enhance her analytical skills.



Malcolm J. Salida

Financial Manager

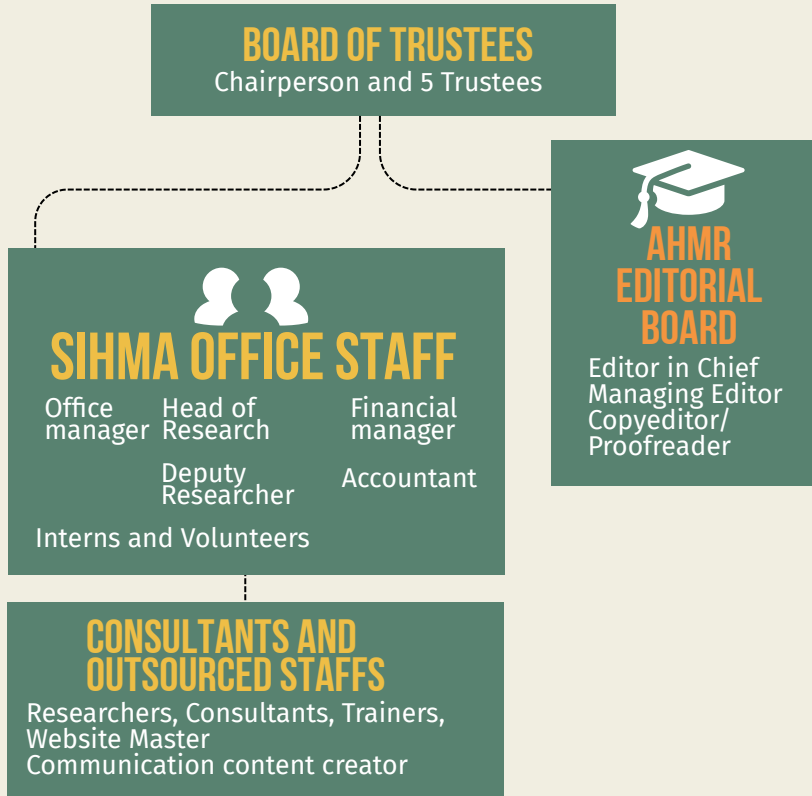
finances@sihma.org.za

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.

« MANY MIGRANTS, REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS ARE PRIVILEGED **WITNESSES OF HOPE**. INDEED, THEY DEMONSTRATE THIS DAILY THROUGH THEIR RESILIENCE AND TRUST IN GOD, AS THEY FACE ADVERSITY WHILE SEEKING A FUTURE IN WHICH THEY GLIMPSE THAT INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND HAPPINESS ARE POSSIBLE.»

POPE LEO XIV
MESSAGE FOR THE 111TH
WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS
AND REFUGEES,, JULY 2025

ORGANISATIONAL CHART



“MIGRANTS ARE NOT ONLY PERSONS IN NEED OF PROTECTION, BUT ALSO ESSENTIAL ACTORS IN OUR SOCIETIES. THROUGH THEIR WORK, SKILLS, ECONOMIC INITIATIVES, REMITTANCES, PARTICIPATION IN ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, THEY CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN, TRANSIT AND DESTINATION. THEIR PRESENCE ENRICHES THE SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC FABRIC AND STRENGTHENS TIES BETWEEN PEOPLES; VIEWING THEM SOLELY IN TERMS OF RISK OR ‘BURDEN’ IS NOT ONLY INACCURATE BUT CONTRARY TO THE REQUIREMENT OF DIGNITY AND EQUALITY SET OUT IN THE AFRICAN CHARTER”.

SELMA SASSI-SAFER
SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON REFUGEES, ASYLUM SEEKERS, INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS AND MIGRANTS IN AFRICA AND PEOPLES’ RIGHTS, 18 DECEMBER 2025

**"THE GLOBALIZATION OF POWERLESSNESS
IS THE CHILD OF A LIE: THAT HISTORY HAS
ALWAYS BEEN THIS WAY, THAT HISTORY IS
WRITTEN BY THE VICTORS, WHICH MAKES
IT SEEM THAT WE CAN DO NOTHING."**

POPE LEO XIV, VIDEOMESSAGE SEPTEMBER 2025



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.

COMMUNICATION AND ADMIN

[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 INTERNSHIP

[AT LEAST 5 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 2025/26



COLE JOHNSON

From Michigan State University, joined SIHMA from June to July 2025. Cole is studying International Relations and Economics. He has plenty research experience. Cole is skilled in analytical research, persuasive and argumentative essays, critical thinking, and debate. Cole worked supported our Research as well Communications during his time.

“It was terrific to work on projects that could influence governments and change lives. Additionally, I was ultimately able to branch out and create mini-projects of my own, such as developing an overview of the dangers Sudanese refugees face when trying to flee to different countries. I believe that, even in a short two-month span, I have gained an incredible amount of experience, confidence, skill, and education in communications, research, and writing”



ALICE LANZI

From Italy, she studied International Cooperation and Development Policies at Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Catholic University of the Sacred Heart) in Milan. She joined SCCT has a volunteer in Lawrence House with the youth, while the children were at school she volunteered at SIHMA as a communications support officer, she was also instrumental in the launch of our ATLAS of Migration in Africa.

“The entire experience was more than positive, all colleagues were extremely helpful and willing to provide assistance and explanations whenever needed. Without a doubt, the achievement I am most proud of is the public presentation of the Atlas of African Migration, an ambitious project to raise awareness about migration on the African continent. Already in the works for more than two years, the Atlas took its final form in 2025. At the beginning of May, the Atlas of African Migration finally saw the light of day, with a beautiful online presentation which received positive feedback from all the participants.”

CATHERINE MAFA

From Zimbabwe, student at the University of Chicago majoring in Political Science and Visual Art. Academically, she has developed expertise in designing research methodologies, collecting and analyzing data, and summarizing findings into practical information. Catherine joined the team as a support to the Communications Officer. During her time in SIHMA she managed our Social Media pages, our communications channel. She also supported the team with designing and layouts of presentations. She was a valuable member of our team.

AMONG OUR PARTNERS



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



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



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



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



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



SIMI - Scalabrini International Migration Institute (Rome, Italy)



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



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



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



Société de la Chapelle Italienne (Genève, Switzerland)



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



ICMC - International Catholic Migration Commission (Geneva, Switzerland)



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



JRS - Jesuit Refugee Service (Southern Africa Region)



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



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



ECUSTA Catholic University Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), La Salle Brothers



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



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



CSEM - Centro Scalabriniano de estudos migratorios (Scalabrini Sisters - Brasília, Brazil)



RAEMH - Réseau Afrique Europe pour la Mobilité Humaine



Cultural Video Production Africa (Nairobi, Kenya)



Royal Holloway, University of London (UK)



University of Valencia (Valencia, Spain)



Radboud University (Nijmegen, Netherlands)



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, 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 Network 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 SCALABRINI STUDY CENTRES



CEMLA, Buenos Aires
Centro de Estudios Migratorios Latinoamericanos, established in 1985 in Buenos Aires (Argentina)
www.cemla.com

CEM, Sao Paolo
Centro de Estudios Migratorios, established in 1985 in Sao Paulo (Brazil)
www.missaonspaz.org

CSER, Rome
Centro Studi Emigrazione Roma, established in 1964 in Rome (Italy)
www.cser.it

CMS, New York
Center for Migration Studies of New York, established in 1969 in New York (USA)
www.cmsny.org

CIEMI, Paris
Centre d'Information et Etudes sur les Migrations Internationales, established in 1971 in Paris (France) www.ciemi.org

SMC, Manila
Scalabrini Migration Center, established in 1987 in Manila (Philippines) www.smc.org.ph

SIHMA'S KEY FOCUS AREAS

1. RESEARCH

2. PUBLICATIONS

3. TRAINING, CAPACITY BUILDING, AND ONLINE RESOURCES

4. EVENTS AND COMMUNICATION



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 and beyond 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.

REFUGEES INTEGRATION IN UGANDA: PERSPECTIVES OF REFUGEES, STAKEHOLDERS AND THE HOST COMMUNITY

RESEARCH PROJECT funded by SIMN Europe-Africa and ASCS

To inform the realization of the goal of integration as one of the durable solutions for refugees and as a key factor for their well-being and belonging, SIHMA conducted a study to understand the integration needs of refugees in Uganda, gaps, facilitators and barriers of integration. Through this the participants codeveloped a Key performance Indicator (KPI) framework and recommendations for refugees' integration using a multi-method approach including a desktop review, interviews with refugees, host community and stakeholders and a verification workshop. The field work was conducted in Kampala and Adjumani, after data analysis and the write-up of the report the findings were shared with the participants and other stakeholders and discussed in a verification workshop in Kampala Uganda. During the workshop the findings were verified and the developed KPI was further enhanced. SIHMA hopes that this research and the developed KPI will be used in guiding and measuring integration work with refugees in Uganda. Through this research, SIHMA will provide recommendations to inform advocacy, research, and initiatives aimed at enhancing, supporting, and facilitating the integration of refugees in Uganda.

Expected



AN ASSESSMENT OF LEGAL FRAMEWORKS FOR ACCESS TO ASYLUM FOR REFUGEES AND FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED CHILDREN IN MALAWI

RESEARCH PROJECT funded by Société de la Chapelle

Aligned to the “Enhance Protection and Asylum Project”, SIHMA is conducting study legal frameworks for access to asylum for refugees and for the protection of Unaccompanied and Separated Children in Malawi. This research contributes to the larger goal of enhancing protection and asylum in the region. Legal frameworks for access to asylum for refugees and for the protection of unaccompanied and separated children both exist in Malawi. Although legal frameworks exist, there is dearth of research on their implementation on the ground and the gaps to the legislation. The absence of information on the legislation and its implementation leaves gaps in determining the practical implementation of the laws by government departments and other actors working with the refugees and unaccompanied and separated children.

The research will inform advocacy actions within Malawi and regionally for improved and more protective legal frameworks and effective implementation of these laws on the ground. The results will be compared and integrated with those from MMD III study in order to contribute to advocacy around the improvement/amendment of policy frameworks. The results of the research and the output from the validation workshop will be shared with the organisations in the SIHMA network working on the ground to advocate for changes/amendment of legal frameworks.

Expected



ENHANCE PROTECTION AND ASYLUM (EPA): A SOUTH – SOUTH DIALOGUE TO ADVOCATE FOR IMPROVED PROTECTION, ASYLUM PROCESS, RIGHTS REALISATION AND ACCESS TO SERVICES AND DURABLE SOLUTIONS

In response to the growing regional challenges in migration and protection, the Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town (SCCT) (lead applicant), the Scalabrini Institute for Human mobility in Africa, the Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa (CoRMSA), the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) Uganda and the Catholic Centre for Legal Aid Services Limited (CCLAS) Uganda embarked on the Enhance Protection and Asylum (EPA) project.

The journey started in March 2025 following the approval a funding proposal under the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) Migration and Mobility Dialogue Grant Facility. The EPA project is funded by the European Union and implemented through the ICMPD under the Migration and Mobility Dialogue Support Programme (MMD).

The main aim is to strengthen asylum system implementation across Uganda's and South Africa's national legal frameworks. Through capacity building, research and strategic advocacy, the project leverages lessons from the South Africa and Uganda contexts to foster regional collaboration and build more effective and inclusive protection mechanisms across Southern Africa and beyond. The EPA project seeks to contribute to these efforts by ensuring that forcibly displaced persons, including children on the move, can access protection, documentation, essential services and durable solutions. The main objectives of the EPA project are to:

1. To improve forced migrants' and asylum seekers' access to their rights to protection, documentation, essential services, and dignified access to durable solutions in South Africa and Uganda, including children on the move.

2.To foster pan African cooperation for the promotion of best practices for the protection, rights realisation and access to documentation and services for children on the move, especially for unaccompanied and separated children.

To produce the foundational content to inform the set of dialogues, conferences and multi-lateral symposia that are part of the larger programme, SIHMA was tasked with conducting the research phase of the Enhancing Protection & Asylum (EPA) project in Uganda and South Africa. The research was built under the main objectives of the EPA project and concentrated on two major thematic areas 1) general asylum processes and 2) protection of children on the move. Focusing on both countries allowed the research to offer a comparative lens on issues of protection in the two countries and draw best practices from each. The research was rooted in reviews of the legal instruments in both countries and key informant interviews with stakeholders from civil society organisations, refugee-led organisations, and other relevant stakeholders working with asylum seekers, refugees, and children on the move in South Africa and Uganda. The rich data from civil society organisations, refugee led organisations and other relevant stakeholders gave a graphic picture of the challenges faced by refugees and asylum seekers, including children on the move due to the gaps in the laws and the poor implementation by responsible authorities.

The findings from the research was summarised into small booklets that were later used in dialogues discussing recommendations for legal, policy and implementation change. In this reporting period, 2 dialogues on Access to Asylum: Enhancing Solution Building through Dialogue: South-South Dialogues were held. The 1st dialogue was held in Kampala, Uganda in August 2025 and the 2nd one was held in Johannesburg, South Africa in October 2025 bringing together civil society, refugee-led organisations, and government stakeholders to strengthen asylum systems and advance protection pathways. Through collaboration, dialogues, regional engagements and advocacy actions, the EPA project consortium continues to make efforts towards more inclusive and rights centred approaches, processes and laws that guarantee protection. With more initiatives projected in the remaining months of the project, the EPA team continues to be dedicated and passionate in its various initiatives to ensure enhanced asylum and protection including protection of children on the move.



Funded by the
European Union

Contracted by



ENHANCE PROTECTION AND ASYLUM PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Since inception the EPA project consortium has been implementing activities to enhance and ensure asylum access, quality asylum processes for forced migrants including children; and access to rights, protection, documentation and services for asylum seekers and refugees from arrival in host country to effectively accessing durable solutions with dignity. The implementation is informed by research and the experience and expertise of the different organisations and stakeholders within the consortium and the partners that these organisations work with. Bringing together diversity and perspectives from different geographical locations allows the partners to exchange information, discuss processes, identify good practices and gaps and channel their efforts towards a common goal. These important actions contribute to improving asylum processes, rights realisation and access to documentation and services for children on the move and advocacy actions for protection and durable solutions.

Over the past few months Enhance Protection and Asylum project consortium has implemented the following activities in addition to the research phase that has already been mentioned in the previous section:

1. Production of awareness raising material on asylum process and rights of asylum seekers/refugees. This initiative is being conducted in Uganda and South Africa through the project consortium(SCCT, SIHMA, CCLAS, JRS and CoRMSA) with the aim of ensuring that asylum seekers understand their rights and protections available for them.

2. As part of the civic activities towards better advocacy coordination in Uganda, South Africa and Southern Africa, and addressing barriers within the legal framework on asylum, the EPA project has conducted 2 South-South dialogue conferences on asylum access and rights- Kampala (Uganda) and Johannesburg (South Africa). The conferences were collectively organised by the EPA consortium and brought together stakeholders working with the asylum processes.

The conversations during the dialogues were guided by the EPA research findings providing as foundational content. From these conferences policy recommendations with timelines for implementation were developed and the project consortium and its partners are in the process of ensuring that these recommendations are put into action.

3. The project partners in Uganda (JRS and CCLAS) and South Africa (SCCT and CoRMSA) has been involved in capacitating of authorities in the asylum process including refugee status determination officers, refugee appeal and review authorities and/or judiciary. The consortium has also been involved in legal interventions/litigations challenging and reforming unlawful practices that hinder refugee access to asylum and compromise their protection and rights.

5. Part of the EPA initiatives is to build the capacity of different legal aid organisations that support asylum processes and the protection of children on the move. In both countries, the consortium has been supporting and assistance to legal aid organisations and providing capacity-building workshops and advocacy for the realisation of rights of asylum seekers and refugees both in Uganda and South Africa.

6. With the increase of detention of asylum seekers especially in SA, the consortium has been advocating for alternatives to immigration detention and improved documentation pathways to reduce unlawful detention and deportation. This is being done through advocacy, awareness raising among refugees of their rights in relation to immigration detention in workshops and dialogues and engagements with government on feasibility and practicality of adopting alternatives to detention and asylum seekers.

Advocacy actions have also been towards promoting integration as a durable solution through permanent residence and citizenship pathways through advocating for legal reforms and addressing policy gaps hindering integration as a durable solution compromising integration pathways.

RESEARCH REQUEST

SIHMA works in collaboration with the **Scalabrini Centre Cape Town (SCCT)** and other organisations that work with people on the move to conduct research that contributes to the understanding of human mobility in Africa and informs policies, programmes, and advocacy for migrants, asylum seekers, IDPs, refugees and seafarers, bridging the gap between research and practice.



Research requests are submitted by people who are interested ONLY THROUGH OUR ONLINE PLATFORM.

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.



1. To request our involvement in your research, **please complete the form available at the link <https://sihma.org.za/sihma-research-request>.**



2. **The SIHMA and SCCT Research Panel reviews every 2 months all the requests**, to ensure that the proposed research is of high quality, novel, methodologically sound and informs policies and procedures aimed at enhancing the lives of people of the move. **We guarantee that will receive a feedback**, but please note that we are not able to grant all of the applications we receive.



3. **If approved, SIHMA and SCCT will assist you in identifying the staff member and/ or in exceptional cases clients best suited to your research needs.** 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)

In 2024, AHMR celebrated A Decade 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.

ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

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 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

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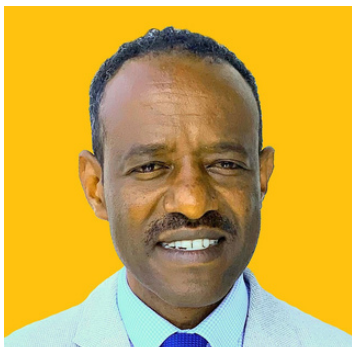
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Prof Mulugeta Dinbabo
AHMR Editor-in-chief
editor@sihma.org.za

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 the 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



Dr Sergio Carciotto
Editorial Manager
ahmr@sihma.org.za

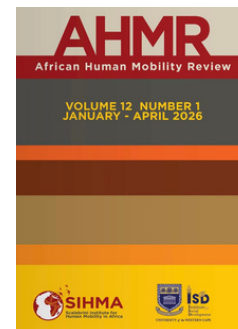
Sergio worked with the Scalabrini Institute for Human Mobility in Africa (SIHMA) since its foundation in 2014. He previously worked in South Africa for local NGOs and in Italy for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. He holds master's degrees in development studies from the University of the Western Cape in South Africa and in refugee rights and migration studies from La Sapienza University in Rome. One of his focus areas is migration policies in Southern African countries.



Prof Daniel Tevera
Editorial Manager
dtevera@sihma.org.za

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.

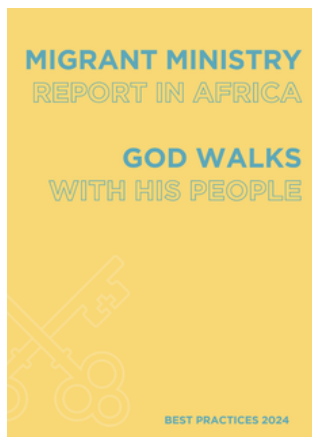
AHMR EDITORIAL TEAM



PROOFREADING **Ursula F. Arends**

On Point Language Solutions
on.point.solutionsza@gmail.com

LAYOUT AND GRAPHICS **Filippo Ferraro** *director@sihma.org.za*



GOOD PRACTICES 2024: MIGRANT MINISTRY REPORT IN AFRICA

PROJECT funded by Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development

Commissioned by the Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development and compiled by the Scalabrini Institute for Human Mobility in Africa (SIHMA), the Ministry Report gives an account of the laborious and fundamental contribution of the Catholic Church and its organisations and congregations in Africa in restoring dignity, protection, sustainability and agency to the countless people who cross borders and seas in search of a homeland. The best practices are guided by the Pope's message for the 110th World Day of Migrants and Refugees under the theme "God walks with His people", a reminder that God does not abandon his children, especially in moments of suffering and despair and he encourages us to be instruments of God's divine mercy offering welcome and support to those move to seek for safety and new opportunities. The report emphasises the good practices that had a positive and tangible impact on improving the well-being of individuals and/or communities in the immediate, medium, or longer-term, as well as those who have proven to be sustainable and contributed to an innovation in the livelihoods of participants. The report also entails best practices by the "Atlantic Migration Route," a common and active migratory route from and through West and North Africa to the Canary Islands and Southern Europe.

Available on www.humandevlopment.va



ENHANCING PROTECTION AND ASYLUM: A SOUTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE FOR RIGHTS AND SOLUTIONS

Project funded by the European Union and contracted by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development

The research component of the Enhancing Protection and Asylum (EPA) Project was structured around two main objectives: (1) examining the general asylum process, and (2) analysing the processes for the protection of children on the move in South Africa and Uganda, with the aim of producing foundation content to inform the set of dialogues, conferences and multi-lateral symposia that are part of the larger EPA project. The research methodology was rooted in desktop review and key informant interviews with stakeholders from civil society organisations, refugee-led organisations, and other relevant stakeholders working with asylum seekers, refugees, and children on the move in South Africa and Uganda. The findings of the research gives a picture of the challenges faced by refugees and asylum seekers, including children on the move due to the gaps in the laws and the poor implementation by responsible authorities. The comparison between Uganda and South Africa, in spite of some fundamental differences in approaches to migrants, is useful, particularly in sharing learnings from each context on asylum and protection. The comparative aspect of this report allow for rich dialogue in meetings and regional symposia discussing recommendations for legal, policy and implementation change.

Find the full research report [here](#)

AFRICA ON THE MOVE 2025



**304
MILLION**
3.7%

WORLD'S POPULATION LIVING
OUTSIDE THEIR COUNTRY OF
NATIONALITY IN 2025
OF TOTAL POPULATION
WORLDWIDE

Source: [Migration Data Portal 2024](#)



**41.6
MILLION**
**29.2
MILLION**

REFUGEES
AT THE END OF 2025
GLOBALLY.

INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS HOSTED IN
AFRICA AT MID-YEAR 2024, COMPARED TO
25.3 MILLION AT MID-YEAR 2020 (**±15%**)



86%

OF ALL INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS IN AFRICA
ORIGINATED FROM THE SAME REGION

Source: [UN DESA, 2025](#) , [UNHCR Global Focus](#) , [UNHCR, 2025](#)



**42
MILLION**

INTERNALLY DISPLACED WOMEN AND GIRLS
IN 2025
(**50% - 53 %** OF TOTAL IDPS IN THE WORLD)



**48
MILLION**

ESTIMATED FORCIBLY DISPLACED
CHILDREN BY THE END OF 2025
(**38%** OF ALL FORCIBLY DISPLACED PEOPLE)

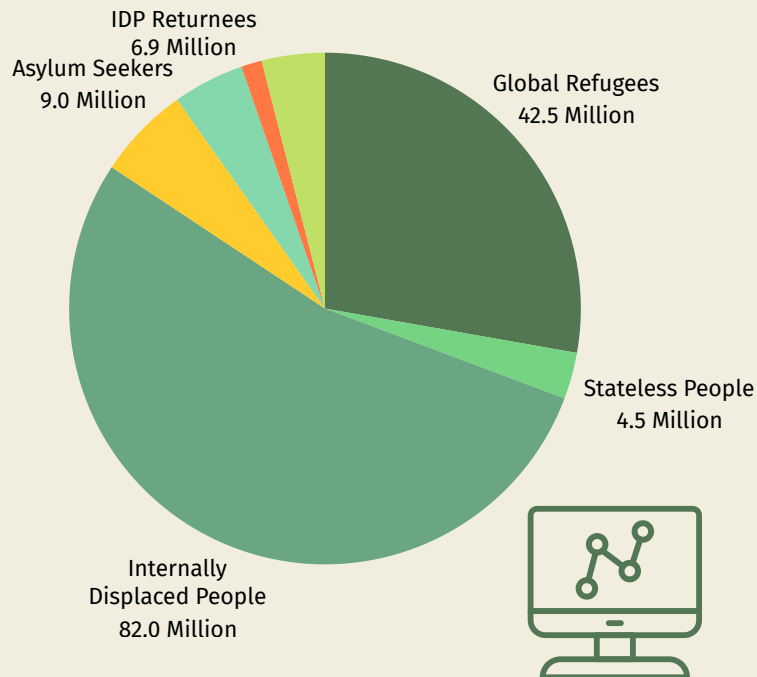
Source: [UNHCR, 2025](#)

**117.8
MILLION**

**TOTAL FORCIBLY DISPLACED
POPULATIONS IN THE WORLD (2025)**

-4.2%

FROM 123 MILLION AT THE END OF 2024 TO 117.8
MILLION BY THE END OF 2025. THIS DECLINE WAS
PRIMARILY DRIVEN BY NEARLY 15 MILLION REFUGEES
AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPS) RETURNING
TO THEIR HOME COUNTRIES OR REGIONS



FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS POPULATIONS IN AFRICA

Category	IGAD	Southern Africa & Eastern Africa	West and Central Africa	East African Community (EAC)	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa	Southern African Development Community
Refugees/Asylum Seekers	5.6 million	6.4 million	3.8 million	4.6 million	7.2 million	1.2 million
IDPS	16.2 million	17 million	14.1 million	11.2 million	20.3 million	6.5 million
Returned Refugees	262 thousand (2026)	343 thousand (2026)	272 thousand	128 thousand (2026)	296 thousand (2026)	0 (2026)
Stateless Persons	81 thousand	111 thousand	931 thousand	96 thousand	96 thousand	15 thousand

TOP 10 DESTINATION COUNTRIES OF REFUGEES IN AFRICA

1. Uganda	2,024,416
2. Chad	1,532,231
3. Ethiopia	1,124,123
4. Egypt	1,101,744
5. Sudan	868,075
6. Kenya	847,780
7. DRC	602,927
8. Cameroon	412,365
9. Niger	447,097
10. Mauritania	184,461

TOP 10 DESTINATION COUNTRIES OF REFUGEES/ASYLUM SEEKERS IN AFRICA

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8. Cameroon	412,365
9. Niger	447,097
10. Mauritania	184,461

TOP 10 MIGRATION DESTINATIONS FOR ALL OF AFRICA

1. Cote d'Ivoire	2.88 million
2. South Africa	2.63 million
3. Sudan	2.40 million
4. Uganda	2.06 million
5. Nigeria	1.40 million
6. Chad	1.27 million
7. Ethiopia	1.17 million
8. Egypt	1.14 million
9. DRC	1.09 million
10. Kenya	0.99 million



AT THE END OF 2025, **68%** OF THE WORLD'S REFUGEES AND INDIVIDUALS IN NEED OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION WERE HOSTED IN LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES.



AMONG THE MORE THAN 100 COUNTRIES THAT HAVE CONDUCTED A MIGRATION GOVERNANCE INDICATORS (MGI) ASSESSMENT, **34%** HAVE DEVELOPED SPECIFIC MEASURES THAT PROMOTE THE **ETHICAL** RECRUITMENT OF MIGRANT WORKERS.

10 AFRICAN COUNTRIES HOST 7 MILLION REFUGEES

SUDAN HAS OVERTAKEN SOUTH SUDAN AS AFRICA'S LARGEST REFUGEE CRISIS AND THE WORLD'S THIRD-LARGEST REFUGEE CRISIS GLOBALLY, WITH OVER 2.8 MILLION REFUGEES FLEEING INTO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AND AN ADDITIONAL 9.1 MILLION PEOPLE INTERNALLY DISPLACED.

Source: 2024,
UNHCR Global Trends
Forced Displacement

FATALITIES AND CHALLENGES

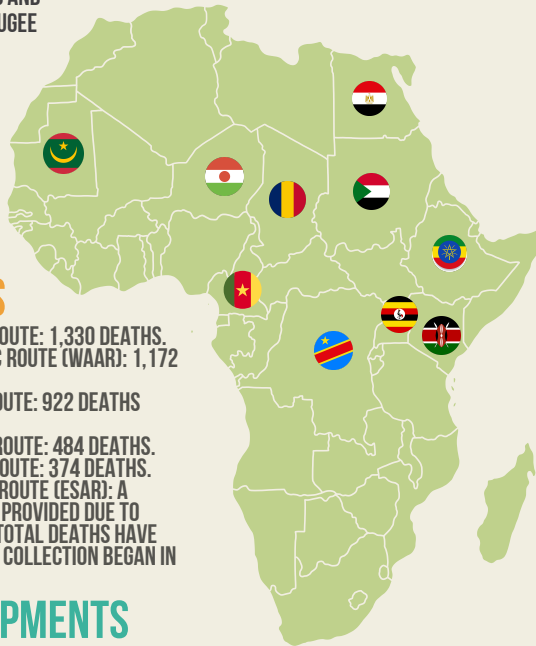
- CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE: 1,330 DEATHS.
- WESTERN AFRICAN ATLANTIC ROUTE (WAAAR): 1,172 DEATHS.
- HORN OF AFRICA EASTERN ROUTE: 922 DEATHS (PRIMARILY ETHIOPIANS).
- WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE: 484 DEATHS.
- EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE: 374 DEATHS.
- EASTERN SOUTHERN AFRICA ROUTE (ESAR): A SPECIFIC 2025 TOTAL IS NOT PROVIDED DUE TO UNDERREPORTING, BUT 484 TOTAL DEATHS HAVE BEEN RECORDED SINCE DATA COLLECTION BEGAN IN 2014.

POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS

81.800 REFUGEES ARRIVED THROUGH RESETTLEMENT OR SPONSORSHIP PATHWAYS. UNHCR SUBMITTED 35,000 REFUGEES TO STATES FOR RESETTLEMENT.

46.100 STATELESS PEOPLE HAD THEIR NATIONALITY CONFIRMED OR ACQUIRED CITIZENSHIP.

14.7 MILLION DISPLACED PEOPLE RETURNED TO THEIR AREAS OR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN, WHICH INCLUDES 10.3 MILLION IDPS AND NEARLY 4.4 MILLION REFUGEES.



BLOG POSTS

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



Remembering the Sharpeville Massacre: Protecting the Rights of Child Migrants in South Africa [18/03/2025]



Feminization of Migration: Guest Lecture Presentation [29/04/2025]



Atlas of African Migration: Mapping Migration Patterns, Trends & Realities Across Africa [13/05/2025]



Key Performance Indicator Framework Research Workshop in Uganda: A Collaborative Approach to Refugee Integration [05/08/2025]



Enhancing Protection and Asylum: A South-South Dialogue for Rights and Solutions (Research Phase) [25/11/2025]



Gaps in the Implementation of the Non-Prima Facie Refugee Status Determination in Uganda [17/11/2026]



Research Findings Verification Workshop: Legal Frameworks for Refugees/Asylum Seekers and Children on the Move in Malawi [19/05/2026]



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

Dissemination of our findings and capacity building is a key activity for our institute. SIHMA organises seminars, workshops and training sessions for different targeted groups: officials and institutions, no profit sector and pastoral agents of migration, every kind of audience interested in understating human mobility. Obviously we partner with many Universities and Study centres in creating curricula and courses for students and practitioners.

We have a different range of training programmes, based on our experience on the ground and the most recent research outputs, including our AHMR journal publications, in order to deliver 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 SIHMA's objectives and within our expertise, we are happy to customise sessions for specific beneficiaries and occasions.



MAIN AREAS OF TRAINING



1. GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN MOBILITY

essentials foundations for the understanding of the phenomenon of migration; structural elements, terminology, main actors and dynamics, interdisciplinary dimension



2. TRAINING OF PASTORAL AGENTS OF HUMAN MOBILITY

pastoral care of migration, ethical and spiritual foundation, key operational tools (need assessment, monitoring and evaluating, networking, referral system, holistic approach)



3. TRAINING ON GOVERNANCE OF MIGRATION

elements of human mobility from a legal, policy and administrative perspective, protection of the human rights, international legislation and national legal framework, detention, relationship public bodies and non-governmental organisations



4. COMMUNICATION, MEDIA AND THE NARRATIVE OF HUMAN MOBILITY

orientation framework on people on the move in Africa, stereotypes and bias, web security threats, media and narratives, AI challenges, multimedia production, advocacy and awareness

LEND ME YOUR VOICE

Jubilee initiative by SIHMA, Archdiocese of Cape Town, Caritas Cape Town, and STEPS (Year 2025-26)

As part of the 'Pilgrims of Hope' initiative for the 2025 Jubilee, SIHMA, in collaboration with the Archdiocese of Cape Town, Caritas and STEPS, has organised screenings of films from the Generation Africa collection. This is a project of 25 films sharing the lived realities of African youth, the largest youth demographic in the world whose futures will determine the shape of global fortunes over the next few decades, through the lens of migration across 16 Anglophone and Francophone countries of Africa. Directed by African filmmakers, these films and documentaries offer a non-stereotypical view of migrants and their experiences, and provide an excellent starting point for a conversation on these issues with a diverse audience.

The film chosen for this jubilee event was "Lend me your voice", an experimental short documentary that explores empathy by soliciting human reactions to adversity through the telling of refugee and abuse survivor, Akili's story. Sparked by her need to let go and heal, she shares her life story, but not in a conventional way. Strangers read her true story while putting themselves in her shoes. Her journey begins in a prison cell in Burundi where Akili was being held, tortured and almost executed, accused of political crimes that she did not commit. Akili becomes a refugee in Burundi, a country that became her new home and gave her the opportunity to become a boxing champion, but her troubles and challenges didn't stop. The film was consistently received with great emotion, empathy and interest by audiences at the various screenings, and it was not always easy to initiate a discussion about the reactions it had provoked and how it might relate to their own lives or to people they know. One of the most encouraging outcomes is that, at the end of the sessions, many people suggested various practical ways – both on a personal and community level – to 'recognise' and connect with people who are suffering from these traumas.

SIHMA ONLINE RESOURCES, A WINDOW INTO MIGRATION



We disseminate findings of research, articles, and other material, making this knowledge about human mobility available for a wider audience: academics, students, officials, civil society, members of international organisations and volunteers engaged in field work supporting people on the move. But also just every person that is simply curious to understand more the dynamics of migration, policies, economic impact, social and gender dynamics, and the representation of human mobility in media.

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.

1. ATLAS OF AFRICAN MIGRATION

The online portal with African country profiles (see next page)



2. NARRATIVES ON HUMAN MOBILITY

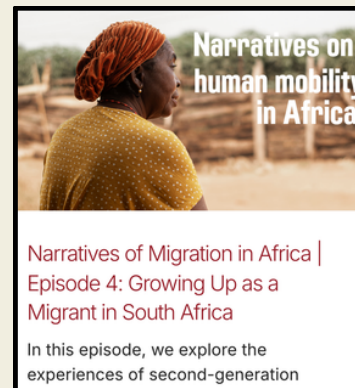
This new section aims to dispel myths about migration that often circulate in the media, providing a different and more realistic view of the dynamics and subjects of human mobility. Through short videos and stories, the voice of migrants is made accessible and more understandable, portraying the life, challenges and opportunities of African migrants who decided or were forced to migrate. The project includes reviews of books and films, media content from different platforms, at personal and community level.

A way to reach the wide variety of backgrounds, circumstances, difficulties, and hopes of people on the move and offer their perspective on human mobility.

Explore the Narratives of Human Mobility: <http://sihma.org.za/narratives>

3. VISUAL HISTORY OF MIGRATION

We aim at offering a chronological and thematic timeline of historical events or periods that have had an impact on the movement of people across the continent (in progress) accompanied by a visual layout comprising infographics, summaries, images, and videos.



ATLAS OF AFRICAN MIGRATION

It is an online platform hosted on the SIHMA website aimed at providing an overarching understanding of the complex migration pattern of migration within and beyond the continent. Launched in May 2025, it currently provides information about 25 African countries, and the team is working on the goal to complete all the 54 countries in Africa. With one click on the Atlas on our website, you can access information on or related to migration in the different countries. Each profile draws from rigorous desktop research using government reports, academic journals, and established online databases. This multi-source approach reveals patterns and trends that single datasets might miss.



**DATE OF LAST
UPDATE**



**INFO
GRAPHICS**



**LIST OF
REFERENCES**

1 MAP OF AFRICA

from which you can navigate all countries with a quick overview or the detailed profile

25 COUNTRY PROFILES

already available in the platform for consultation

15 COUNTRY PROFILES

on process that will be available before the end of 2026

16 SECTIONS

for each country profile, where all data are easily accessible:

- Overview
- Historical background
- Migration policies
- Government institutions
- Internal migration
- Internally displaced persons (conflict/violence & disaster)
- Immigration
- Female migration
- Children
- Refugees and asylum seekers
- Emigration
- Labour migration
- Human trafficking
- Remittances
- Returns and returnees
- International organisations



**«THE NEEDS AFFLICTING
OUR MIGRANTS
ARE MATERIAL AND MORAL.
HENCE, TO RESPOND TO
THIS DOUBLE NECESSITY,
THE UNDERTAKING MUST
BE RELIGIOUS AND LAY AT
ONE AND THE SAME TIME»**

ST JOHN BAPTIST SCALABRINI
WRITINGS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE ST. RAPHAEL SOCIETY, 1899



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

16 April 2025

FEMINIZATION OF MIGRATION: GUEST LECTURE PRESENTATION GUEST LECTURE BY THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN CAPE

On 16 April 2025, Dr. Rachel Chinyakata of SIHMA delivered a guest lecture at the University of the Western Cape, hosted by the Department of Women and Gender Studies as part of their Gender and Development module. The lecture examined gender, inequality, and development with a focus on the position of women in the global economy and included a detailed discussion of the IMF and World Bank's Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs) and their gender implications. Students were particularly interested in understanding why African governments participated in these programmes and the lasting effects they have had on African economies. The session also introduced students to global migration trends, push-pull factors driving migration, and the history and statistics of female migrants worldwide.

A central theme of the lecture was the feminization of migration, exploring how economic displacement linked to SAPs has pushed women across borders to seek opportunity particularly in care work industries in the Global North, where ageing populations rely heavily on labour from the Global South. The discussion covered both the advantages of this trend, such as economic empowerment and remittance contributions, and its disadvantages, including vulnerability to exploitation and family separation. SIHMA also highlighted how existing migration policies remain largely designed with the male migrant in mind, leaving women inadequately protected. The lecture concluded by stressing the need for multi-sectoral collaboration among policymakers, civil society, government, and trade unions to better safeguard the rights of female migrants.

[Read the full blog here](#)

07 May 2025

ATLAS OF AFRICAN MIGRATION: MAPPING MIGRATION PATTERNS, TRENDS & REALITIES ACROSS AFRICA

Online launch by **SIHMA**

On 7 May 2025, SIHMA launched the Atlas of African Migration a comprehensive project aimed at producing migration profiles for all 54 recognised African countries. Built on rigorous desktop research drawing from government reports, journal publications, and online databases, the atlas spans multiple phases including textual material, infographics, migration narratives, and visual histories. It is designed to bridge the gap between academic research and practical application, making migration data accessible and engaging for a broad audience. At the launch, the first 25 country profiles were made freely available on the SIHMA website.

Key findings from the research reveal that migrants and host community members often share similar socioeconomic backgrounds, living conditions, and service needs, yet a lack of unity between these groups frequently leads to tension and, in some cases, xenophobic violence, as seen in South Africa and Ghana. The research also challenges the classical labour theory of migration, finding that migrants are driven more by the perceived availability of opportunity in host countries than by actual labour demand — South Africa being a prime example despite its high unemployment rate. Additional findings document the rise of irregular migration due to increasingly securitised borders, the growing feminization of migration across the continent, the vital role of remittances as a financial lifeline for African households, and the dominance of intra-African movement as the primary form of migration on the continent.

Read the full blog [here](#)

02 June 2025

SCALABRINI DAY

Event by **SIHMA** and the **Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town** and **Lawrence House**

The annual celebration of St. Scalabrini, held on 1 June at the Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town, united over fifty participants from across the Scalabrini Network, including the Scalabrini Centre, Lawrence House, SIHMA, and the Missionaries of St. Charles Scalabrinian. The event honoured St. Scalabrini's values of dedication to refugees, migrants, and those living in poverty, and opened with an address by Father Peter-John, who reflected on the institute's founding principles and contrasted St. Scalabrini's ethos of charity with the violence increasingly used by world leaders in response to conflict. Three programme presentations followed on a new gender-based violence initiative, the Integration Pathways programme (including its Employment Help Desk and Skills Hub), and the Alternatives to Detention (ATD) Portfolio, which advocates for humane, rights-based alternatives to immigration detention and recently formed a new partnership with the UNHCR.

Lawrence House marked its 20th anniversary with staff testimonies and a documentary following Neusa, a child separated from her family after her father's death. The film highlighted both the trauma of family separation and the persistent legal advocacy that ultimately reunited Neusa with her mother and siblings a powerful testament to the organisation's impact. The evening concluded with a quiz on African refugee laws and migration trends, facilitated by SIHMA, which revealed significant knowledge gaps even among Scalabrini members, including limited awareness of Niger's important role as a migration transit country. Overall, the celebration served as a meaningful reflection of the collective achievements of the Scalabrini Network and the real change its work continues to generate across Africa.

Read the full blog [here](#)

15th to 16th July 2025

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATOR FRAMEWORK RESEARCH WORKSHOP IN UGANDA: A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO REFUGEE INTEGRATION

Event by **SIHMA**, Kampala, Uganda

The KPI Framework Research Workshop, held from 15 to 16 July 2025 at the ARUA Centre in Kampala, Uganda, brought together a wide range of stakeholders to advance refugee integration through research and collaboration. The workshop was introduced by Fr. Filippo Ferraro, who framed discussions within the Scalabrini network's broader mission of supporting displaced populations. A Needs Assessment presented by Br. R. Mwansa highlighted challenges faced by refugees in Adjumani and informed the development of practical interventions, including the Agro-Smart agricultural innovation project. Dr. Nakabo and Dr. Chinyakata then presented the KPI research project, detailing its methodology and a proposed framework of indicators for measuring refugee integration, followed by group discussions and a plenary session to refine the KPIs.

Key takeaways from Day 1 included the importance of skilling programmes, market linkages, and educational support, as well as concerns around policy-implementation gaps and funding discrepancies. On Day 2, the revised KPI framework was presented and further refined based on stakeholder feedback, with Fr. Filippo facilitating sessions on implementation strategy and Monitoring and Evaluation. Participants proposed actionable steps including stakeholder mapping, broad dissemination of the framework, and integration into existing programmes. The workshop concluded with a clear roadmap to revise the research report and share the refined framework with partner organisations, marking a significant step toward evidence-based, collaborative refugee support in Uganda.

Read the full blog [here](#)



16 April 2025

LECTURE ON HUMAN MOBILITY IN AFRICA

Online event by **Catholic University of Milan**, Italy

Building on the long-standing collaboration between SIHMA and the Catholic University of Milan, Prof Laura Zanfrini, Director of the WWELL Research Centre (Work, Welfare, Enterprise, Lifelong Learning) invited us also this year to give a presentation to the students of the courses related to human mobility at the Department of Sociology of the Catholic University in Milan.

It's always a privilege and a precious opportunity for us to interact with a committed and interested audience of students, who have already a background on the main dynamics of human mobility.

We started with a quick overview on the patterns and trends of voluntary and forced migration in the continent, the push/pull factors, gender barriers and opportunities, climate related concerns, family networks and migratory industry, human trafficking. The most important thing is the awareness about the peculiar situation of such a vast and differentiated continent, highlighting the importance of a "regional approach" to this theme.

Beside a scientific and academic introduction to these component, SIHMA director insisted on the important specific approach of the organisations that are part of the umbrella of the Scalabrini network, that is the direct link to the operational impact of our work. How data collection, analysis and dissemination - in the light of the ethos and spirituality of Scalabrini - can benefit the social interventions and advocacy in favour of the most vulnerable.

We shared how our commitment to research, training and dissemination of data always aims at defending the rights of people on the move and promoting their empowerment. It is always reassuring and rewarding to see how this is met with such a warm and enthusiastic response from students.

A usual, the presentation was followed by an interactive and interesting Q&A time where students asked more details about some of the trending topics about human mobility in Africa, such roots of inequality, securitisation of borders, unaccompanied minors and xenophobia.

3 November 2025

EXPLORATORY ROUNDTABLE ON MIGRATION AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN AFRICA

*Roundtable by **SIHMA**, Cape Town*

On the 3rd of November 2025, the Centre for African Fintech, Innovation and Law (CAFIL), the Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town (SCCT), Migration and Mobilities Interdisciplinary Collective in Africa (MMICA) UWC, the Institute for Social Development (ISD) UWC and the Scalabrini Institute for Human Mobility in Africa (SIHMA) hosted a roundtable discussion at the University of the Western Cape.

This roundtable explored how digital transformation both influences and is influenced by human mobility, with an emphasis on ethical, human rights-based policy and community engagement. A panel of experts discussed themes related to the challenges and opportunities of technology in (decentering) migration governance, digital inclusion for migrants, the role of fintech on digital remittances, and the potential of technology to enhance the rights of people on the move.

16 September 2025

SACBC MEETING ON MIGRATION, REFUGEES, AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

*Workshop by **Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference***

The Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference (SACBC) convened a multi-day meeting bringing together clergy, religious leaders, lay representatives, and civil society organisations to address migration, pastoral care, and human trafficking in Southern Africa. Bishop Joseph Kizito opened the gathering by characterising migrants as "missionaries of hope," calling participants to reflect on conditions in their communities and take practical action in support of migrants' dignity. The keynote address by Fr. Jean Marie Dido framed migration as a global phenomenon shaped by both forced and voluntary factors, arguing for a shift from pastoral care for migrants to pastoral care with migrants, affirming their agency and active contribution to community life. The National Freedom Network also presented its work countering human trafficking, with particular attention to the vulnerability of undocumented migrants and the growing role of digital platforms in grooming and exploitation. Legal and policy dimensions were addressed by Dr. James, who outlined the rights of asylum seekers and refugees under South African law while highlighting systemic challenges including bureaucratic delays and the precarious position of undocumented migrants. Strategic sessions introduced Bishop Kizito's "Cycle of Mission" framework and a SWOT analysis of the Church's engagement with migrants, identifying pastoral commitment as a key strength and resource constraints as a key weakness. Diocesan representatives from over 20 dioceses shared reports on pastoral initiatives, reflecting active efforts to integrate migrants into parish life alongside persistent challenges in data collection and structural support. The meeting reaffirmed the SACBC's commitment to addressing migration and trafficking through a combined lens of pastoral care, legal advocacy, and coordinated multi-institutional action.

[Read the full blog here](#)

29-30 October 2025

ACCESS TO ASYLUM: ENHANCING SOLUTION BUILDING THROUGH DIALOGUE: SECOND SOUTH–SOUTH DIALOGUE

*Conference by the **EPA Partners**, Johannesburg, South Africa*

In 2025 the Enhancing Protection and Asylum: A South–South Dialogue for Rights and Solutions (EPA) Project was initiated by five partner organisations: the Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town, the Scalabrini Institute for Human Mobility in Africa (SIHMA), The Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa (CoRMSA), the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) East Africa/Uganda and the Catholic Centre for Legal Aid Services (CCLAS).

Together, these organisations combine expertise in advocacy, service delivery, legal assistance, research, and community-based protection to strengthen asylum systems, promote regional cooperation, and advance the rights and dignity of refugees and asylum seekers across Southern and Eastern Africa.

Held under the Enhancing Protection and Asylum (EPA) Project and guided by the theme “Access to Asylum: Enhancing Solution Building through Dialogue,” the EPA partners held the Second South–South Dialogue Conference in Johannesburg, South Africa. The purpose of the gathering was to deepen collaboration and engagements between South Africa and Uganda, bringing together civil society organisations, refugee-led initiatives, and government stakeholders to strengthen asylum systems and expand protection pathways across the region. Following the success of the first dialogue in Kampala, the gathering discussed some ways to strengthen asylum systems and advance protection pathways leveraging on the lessons from each context.

The South–South Dialogue provided a unique regional platform where refugee-led groups and policymakers came together to share experiences and shape joint solutions.

The discussions during the conference generated an advocacy roadmap consisting of recommendations, directions for advocacy, reform and fostered stronger, more inclusive approaches to protection and mobility. During this event, SIHMA as part of the EPA consortium presented the research findings from the EPA research highlighting the legal frameworks for the protection of asylum seekers, key challenges/gaps associated with the implementation and learnings from each context. The research findings provided basis for the engagements throughout the dialogues.

Read the full blog [here](#)



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, 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.



SOCIAL NETWORKS

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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



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.



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.

21-23 October 2025

MIGRATION, A PILGRIMAGE OF HOPE

International Conference on Migration, Theological and Social Studies by SIMI, Urbaniana University (Rome) and University of Notre Dame (New York, USA)

Held under the auspices of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, the Consilium Conferentiarum Episcoporum Europae (CCEE), the International Union of Superiors General (UISG), and the Union Superiors General (USG), this event brought together scholars, theologians, religious leaders, representatives of NGOs, faith-based organizations as well as representatives of migrant and refugee communities from around the world. The main goal was to explore the intersections between migration and theology, providing a space for reflection and dialogue as well as concrete pastoral actions on crucial issues of the migratory phenomenon. Participants had the opportunity to analyze the theological challenges posed by migration and discuss the responses that theology can offer in a context of global mobility. Topics such as the theology of welcome, the human dignity of migrants, the role of religious communities in integration, and the importance of Christian witness in a world marked by conflict and forced displacement were addressed by many prestigious speakers. The Jubilee celebration provided also a unique context for rethinking theological and pastoral responses to human mobility, examining how the Christian tradition can offer tools and resources to address contemporary challenges, to assess the progress made and to outline new perspectives for the future. During the 4th Panel called "Contextual Perspectives on the Pastoral Care of migrants, refugees and victims of human trafficking on Migration: best practices, structures, pioneers," SIHMA Director, Fr Filippo Ferraro, presented his paper "Developments and prospects for the pastoral care of people on the move in Africa: the passionate, competent and prophetic commitment of the pilgrim Church", which offers a theological and pastoral reflection based on the African ministry reports produced by our institute in recent years. The conference proceedings will be published in the second half of 2026.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

During the previous financial year, SIHMA has secured valuable funding for several impactful projects and continues to achieve its goals through conservative budgeting, careful expenditure management, and the responsible use of available resources.

The organisation continued to manage its resources prudently and was able to cover its operational and project-related expenses.

We have strengthened its operational capacity by onboarding a Head of Operations to oversee the day-to-day running of the office, including project management, financial oversight, and administrative coordination, thereby enhancing organisational efficiency and compliance standards.

Looking ahead, the organisation will focus on diversifying its funding sources, strengthening existing donor relationships and pursuing new strategic partnerships. We remain committed to developing sustainable, high-impact projects and managing our resources responsibly. In addition, we aim to establish and maintain appropriate financial reserves to ensure a stable operational foundation and to support long-term resilience and continuity.



**THANKS TO ALL OUR DONORS, SPONSORS
AND INDIVIDUALS THAT SUPPORT OUR MISSION!**

PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT	2024-25	2025-26
Support from Headquarters	897,462	637 888
Grant Income - Local	8,000	-
Grant Income - Overseas	615,97	507 009
Income Generating Projects	607,991	810 566
Other Income	11,551	29 716
Interest Earnings	91,338	59 317
Total Income	2,232,312	2 044 496
Research & Publications	367,366	207 240
Operational Expenses	385,235	488 583
Website & Communications	54,542	44 000
Project Expenses	490,415	486 728
Staff Costs	851,757	1 211 576
Total Expenditure	2,149,314	2 438 127
Funding remaining (ringfenced)	(82,998)	(393 632)
BALANCE SHEET	2024-25	2025-26
Cash on Hand	1,226,269	1 086 689
Fixed Assets	9,173	20 070
Liabilities	362,45	394 074
Restricted Funding		636 310
Equity	894,193	500 562

Numbers in ZA Rands

Compiled by Malcolm Salida (15 Aug 2026)

CONTACTS

Physical Address:

Scalabrini Building
47 Commercial Street 8001
Cape Town South Africa
Telephone and WhatsApp: + 27 825552066
Website: www.sihma.org.za

SIHMA emails:

For any info and requests admin@sihma.org.za
For proposals and fundraising director@sihma.org.za
For research purposes research@sihma.org.za
For communications and media communications@sihma.org.za
For our journal AHMR ahmr@sihma.org.za

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PEOPLE BEHIND THE FIGURES