



SIHMA

Scalabrini Institute for
Human Mobility in Africa



2024 ANNUAL REPORT



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

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

This year, 2024/25, marks a milestone in the history of our institute, with its first ten years of activity and many achievements in our efforts to offer in-depth and practical knowledge of the phenomenon of migration through our research, publications, training and events. However, this report is by no means a celebratory compilation of achievements.

We are prevented from doing so by the awareness of how much work still needs to be done to ensure that our findings contribute to a more respectful management of migration in terms of migrants' rights and the empowerment of the most vulnerable, considering the current situation.

In fact, while the topic of human mobility is increasingly at the center of debate and media coverage, the reality around the world remains worrying and, in some ways, discouraging: the number of forced migrants is constantly increasing, the protection of the rights of people on the move is more and more restricted in the name of national security (and the well-being of the few), and the exploitation and trafficking of people, primarily minors and women, is constantly finding new ways to develop.

Aware of the importance of our scientific and educational mission, we continue our work with dedication and professionalism, in collaboration with an extensive – and sometimes little-known – network of people and organisations with whom we share this challenging but stimulating goal.

Ten years of our scientific journal African Human Mobility Review (AHMR), which has an increasing number of contributions from authors across the continent, the support of an extensive network of reviewers and contributors and, most importantly, something that makes us proud, a growing readership of scholars and students, as well as practitioners and “ordinary” users interested in learning more about the reality we describe.

Similarly, for ten years, the pages of our website and social media have helped us reach an ever-growing number of users with selected content produced from rigorous research but always careful to offer concrete and understandable language.

We wish you happy reading and ourselves many more years of good work

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.

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. 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, the mission 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. They 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.



- 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.
- May 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

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 CPLD

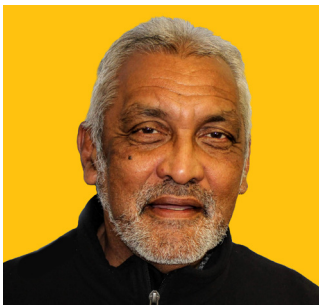


Fr. Jorge Guerra **Chairperson**

Jorge is a missionary of the Scalabrinian Congregation (Missionaries of St Charles Borromeo)

He is based in Johannesburg at St. Patrick La Rochelle, a multicultural community hosting locals, migrants and refugees.

The mission is also busy setting up social projects to support the needs of migrants and the hosting community



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.



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.



Shireen Motara **NPOs and Gender Trainer**

Shireen 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.



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.



Fr. Jonh Kawisha **Expert in Pastoral care of M&R**

John is a Scalabrinian priest and project manager of social initiatives in Uganda. With an advance X 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 (Uganda).

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 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

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

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.



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 between 2021 and 2022 as an Office Administrator of the Project at St Patrick Centre in LaRocheville (Johannesburg), and then for the International Labour Organization (ILO) office in Cape Town as Financial Administrator. Previously, she worked for almost 24 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. Salda
Financial Manager

finance@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.

“IN A WORLD DEEPLY MARKED BY THE OLD AND NEW HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES, THE CATHOLIC CHURCH VIGOROUSLY REAFFIRMS THE COMMON COMMITMENT TO BUILD A FUTURE THAT RESPONDS MORE AND MORE TO GOD’S PLAN, A FUTURE OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY, THE KINGDOM OF GOD. THE FUTURE MUST BE BUILT “WITH” MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES, AS WELL AS WITH ALL THE INHABITANTS OF THE EXISTENTIAL PERIPHERIES, WITH THE DISCARDED AND MARGINALISED, SO THAT NO ONE REMAINS EXCLUDED. “BUILDING WITH” ALSO MEANS “RECOGNISING AND PROMOTING THE CONTRIBUTION OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES TO THIS CONSTRUCTION WORK, BECAUSE ONLY IN THIS WAY CAN A WORLD BE BUILT THAT ENSURES THE CONDITIONS FOR THE INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT OF ALL.”

CARD. FABIO BAGGIO

UNDER-SECRETARY OF THE DIOCESE FOR PROMOTING INTEGRAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, 2022

ORGANISATIONAL CHART



SPECIFIC

focused on our specific mission, that is serving migrants, refugees, seafarers and people on the move. Working for welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating migrants in local communities.

SIGNIFICANT

committed to ministries and services that are relevant, enabling our work to be a seed of renewal in the Church and in society; they should yield tangible, long-term results.

EXEMPLARY

in both ways, seizing the opportunities offered by the network where we work and bearing witness to our charisma, so that others may be inspired to continue the same service after us.

CRITERIA FOR OUR ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

(Scalabrini General Chapter, Portugal 2014)

“IT IS POSSIBLE TO SEE IN THE MIGRANTS OF OUR TIME, AS IN THOSE OF EVERY AGE, A LIVING IMAGE OF GOD’S PEOPLE ON THEIR WAY TO THE ETERNAL HOMELAND. [...] THE IMAGES OF THE BIBLICAL EXODUS AND OF MIGRANTS SHARE SEVERAL SIMILARITIES. LIKE THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL IN THE TIME OF MOSES, MIGRANTS OFTEN FLEE FROM OPPRESSION, ABUSE, INSECURITY, DISCRIMINATION, AND LACK OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT.”

POPE FRANCIS

MESSAGE FOR THE 109TH WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES 2024



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 foresees the involvement in the activities of 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 ADMINISTRATION

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, X, 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

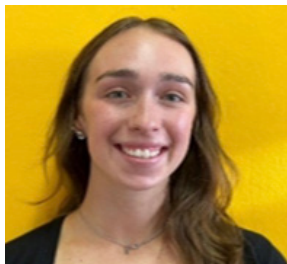
Assisting the SIHMA research team with qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis (depending on experience and qualification); carrying out literature and evidence reviews, including identifying relevant research evidence, appraising the quality of evidence and writing up key findings; 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

We offer a special opportunity for those candidates who cannot be physically with us 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 and familiarity with social media and design are highly appreciated.

INTERNS AT SIHMA 2024/25



PAIGE POULIN

From Virginia, United States; Social Relations and Policy with minor in Public Relations. Research and Communications Intern from June to August 2023.

Paige, an undergraduate student from Michigan State University, interned at SIHMA in June 2024 as a Communications and Research Intern. During her 10 weeks, she contributed to the Blog On The Move, created social media content, and assisted with the 2023 Annual Report. Her time at SIHMA provided her with professional growth and valuable insights into human migration from a global perspective.

"Coming into SIHMA was a wonderful experience. The team was welcoming and kind, and I was able to learn about diverse strategies supporting asylum seekers and refugees, whose voices are often marginalized by migration policies. This experience will have a lasting impact on my life and career as I pursue law and humanitarian work. I will cherish the lessons learned at SIHMA and carry them with me throughout my journey."



BRIAN ARNOLDI

From Bergamo, Italy; Bachelor's Degree in History; Master's Degree in European and International Policies, dissertation on "The impact of climate change on migration in the Sahel: a historical approach"; Research and Communications intern at SIHMA from September 2024 to December 2024

Brian joined SIHMA as a Research and Communications Intern from September to December 2024. His contributions included creating content for SIHMA's social media platforms, developing an editorial plan for the centre's accounts and blog, authoring blog posts, and assisting with the Atlas of African Migration by producing maps, charts, and infographics. He also supported SIHMA's research efforts on migration, policies, and integration processes through his participation in conferences and expert meetings.

"The experience was profoundly enriching. I gained practical skills with professional software, learned the value of teamwork, and broadened my academic perspective beyond Eurocentric frameworks through discussions with the SIHMA team. Although I am now back in Italy, I still feel part of the SIHMA family and will always be grateful for the welcome I received. My advice to future interns is to remain open-minded—be curious about migration, South Africa, and your colleagues' stories."



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

CEM, Sao Paulo

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 ONLINE RESOURCES



4. EVENTS AND COMMUNICATION



1. RESEARCH

Human mobility in Africa is a crucial topic both at an academic level and in terms of communication and media. **Conducting research is SIHMA's main activity.** Our main goal is to provide accurate data that supports advocacy, the service provision and social projects. In order to promote human rights and empowerment of people on the move. Among the many themes of human mobility, **SIHMA's research agenda** is rich in areas of interest. Among these , we do research on migration policy frameworks and their implementation, both at regional and continental level; impact of migration on society and economy; mental health; access to education; refugee rights with a focus on separated and unaccompanied minors, gender, climate change; human trafficking; xenophobia, discrimination and narratives on migration.

MINISTRY REPORTS 2023

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

Commissioned by the Dicastery for the Promotion of Integral Human Development, since 2017, SIHMA has been compiling the Ministry Report offering a picture of the laborious and fundamental contribution of the Catholic Church and its organisations and congregations in protecting the dignity of people on the move. Linked to its 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”, SIHMA compiled the 2023 Ministry Report highlighting the role of the Catholic Church in Africa in restoring dignity, protection, sustainability and agency to the countless people who cross borders and seas in search of a homeland. The Ministry Report 2023 is guided by the Pope’s message for the 110th World Day of Migrants and Refugees under the theme “God walks with His people”. Reminding us 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 who move to seek for safety and new opportunities. The report broadly covers geographically, all major areas of Africa, offering through the 29 good practices a glimpse of 17 African countries. The report emphasizes 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. In its multifaceted prism of contributions, the report reflects the universality of the Church, its geographic distribution within the region concerned, and the multiplicity of charisms, orders, congregations, organisations, and movements. The report also entails best practices by the “Atlantic Migration Route,” a common, active and deadly migratory route from and through West and North Africa to the Canary Islands and Southern Europe. All previous reports published by the Migrants and Refugees Section of Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development are available on their website: <https://www.humandevlopment.va/en/sviluppo-umano-integrale/migranti-rifugiati.html> Expected date of release: June 2025

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

RESEARCH PROJECT by **SIHMA** funded by SIMN - ASCS

According to scholars, integration varies 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.

To fully integrate the refugees into the host communities and include them in the country’s developmental plans, their needs and perspectives need to be taken into consideration in defining what integration looks like and the strategies that could work in achieving this.

There is also a 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, 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 refugee integration.

The findings of this study will be used in informing decisions around refugees’ administration, policies and the implementation of welfare and advocacy programs.

As SIHMA, the main goal is to inform program focused on the welfare and integration of refugees in Uganda. Furthermore, data will be used to provide a benchmark or indicators that organizations 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 organizations, will conduct training with organization’s 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. Between December 2024 and January 2025, SIHMA conducted field work in Kampala with stakeholders, refugees and the local people to explore their understanding of integration, and the integration needs for refugees. Following this will be the data analysis and report writing. Currently data collection is almost completed and transcription of interviews has started.

Between March and May 2025 SIHMA team will finalize the analysis and the report, writing. A final workshop with stakeholders will be conducted in Kampala, Uganda, to report on the findings and present the framework developed.

Expected date of release: August 2025

BLOG ON THE MOVE!

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 2024-25 on our website:

- 🌐 Decolonization of Education and Research on Migration (DERM) [02/04/2024]
- 🌐 Training Workshop for Pastoral Agents of Migration in Kampala Uganda [28/05/2024]
- 🌐 Trafficking In Persons: The Case of Malawi [20/08/2024]
- 🌐 Identity vs. Perception: the case of Chidimma Adetshina and South African opinion on migrants [08/10/2024]
- 🌐 Migration on the Rise: Examining the South Africa-Zimbabwe Corridor in 2024 [22.10.2024]
- 🌐 The Impact of International Sanctions on Zimbabwe's Migratory Regime [19/11/2024]
- 🌐 Madagascar and Djibouti Shipwrecks Highlight Migrants' Deadly Journeys on the East African Route [26.11.2024]
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RESEARCH REQUEST

SIHMA values research that adds to the understanding of human mobility in Africa, informs policies, programmes, and advocacy for migrants and refugees.

Therefore we conduct research to inform the work of the Scalabrini network and other organisations that work with people on the move, thus bridging the gap between research and practice.

Furthermore, SIHMA collaborates with the Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town in aiding researchers, academics, and scholars to find beneficiaries or staff members who can be interviewed for research purpose.

Requests must be submitted through our online platform at this link <https://sihma.org.za/sihma-research-request>.

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.

Should you like to request our involvement in a research, please complete the form available at the link: all information provided will allow us to process the requests and identifying IF and HOW we can support it. The research panel will accurately consider your request and reply according to the schedule of meetings (usually every 1/2 months).

Please, do not email any Scalabrini staff member directly, as our organisations may not be able to correspond until your request has been approved by the panel.



2. PUBLICATIONS

SIHMA publishes articles, briefing papers and reports available in a 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.

“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 **Société de la Chapelle**



BORDER TOWNS AND SPACES OF (IN)VISIBILITY

STUDY OF YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE MOVE IN THE
BORDER TOWNS OF CHIPATA AND KATETE, ZAMBIA

Researchers and authors
Dr Glynis Clacherty, Dr Rebecca Walker and James Clacherty
Edited by Filippo Ferraro and Dr Rachel Chinyakata

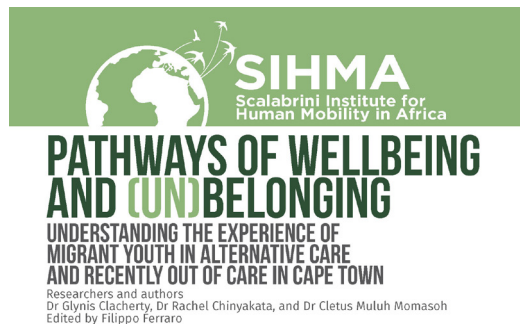


The movement of young people from one country to another is a common phenomenon, children represent a huge portion of international migrants and it's mostly motivated by the search of employment, better living and working conditions. Border towns are used as springboards or stop-off points to make some 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. In 2023 SIHMA undertook ethnographic participatory 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. The research was led by a team of researchers with wealthy experience in human mobility research, participatory research methods and in working with vulnerable young people. These are Dr Glynis Clacherty and Dr Rebecca Walker both affiliated with the African Centre for Migration and Society at the University of the Witwatersrand and Dr James Clacherty, a qualitative researcher with a background in social anthropology and urban geography. Through this research the experiences of young people in the border towns were highlighted and possible responses or strategies to strengthen their protection and support in border areas and to ensure that they are prioritized in the development agenda were also discussed. The findings of the research highlighted that there are distinct groups of young migrants in the two areas with different experiences. The 1st group was proximal migrants who lived close to the border between area and crossed every day to the other side for school and other services without any challenges. The 2nd group were distal migrants coming from other countries as far as DRC who were indicated to be more vulnerable and without freedom that the proximal migrants enjoy. Distal migrants employed strategies 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. These strategies of (in)visibility provide a way to protect themselves yet at the same time also heighten some of the risks young people face as their vulnerabilities are not always recognised by those who could offer support. The findings of the research also revealed that the border regimes developed to manage and control migration and more specifically restrict border crossings in Zambia and across the region significantly impact migration routes and strategies for young people. They can constrain movement, encourage alternative ways of moving and sometimes raise the stakes and risk that young people on the move face. Although there was understanding amongst stakeholders of the challenges faced by young people on the move, there is a space for awareness raising amongst them especially targeting the need to move away from the very common idea that young people lack agency. Available at <https://sihma.org.za/reports/border-towns-and-spaces-of-in-visibility>

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

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

funded by **Kommission für Entwicklungshilfe und Missionen (KEM)** of the Catholic Church in Bern (Switzerland)



Previous research identified the need to further understand the lives of migrant youth (including refugees and asylum seekers) who have left or were close to leaving alternative care institutions. Civil society, too, has identified this group as almost invisible in South African Government immigration and child protection policies, making the process of legalising their stay in South Africa very complex.

This study set out to understand the experiences of young migrants leaving alternative care as they try to access documentation, how they live and strategise around legal insecurity and what impact this has on their sense of identity and emotional wellbeing. Using a participatory art-based approach the research privileged the young people's own experience, giving them choice to represent their world in the way they chose. Working with an artist and a wealth of art material they made art-books around the theme of 'My belonging story'. The young people could then choose to share what they had made in a group discussion.

This study allowed for an understanding of how both past experiences and present experiences impact on young people's sense of identity and belonging and their emotional wellbeing. Alongside their past experiences they also had to cope with being an outsider at school and in the community and the lack of documentation which left them always searching of where they belong.

The research provides a rich and textured narrative of young migrants leaving care alongside their ability to find ways to cope with their difficult reality they help us understand how vulnerable they are both practically and emotionally because they are invisible in law and policy, they have essentially been "lost in care".

Additionally, the young people who participated in this research developed a video that can be used for advocacy purposes. The "We Made This!", video capturing the raw voices of youth who have recently left alternative care, offers an exploration of what it means to search for identity and a place to call home.

Research report available at: <https://sihma.org.za/reports/pathways-of-wellbeingand-un-belonging-understanding-the-experience-of-migrant-youth-in-alternativecare-and-recently-out-of-care-in-cape-town>

"We Made This" video available at: <https://youtu.be/LB95if6y2vQ>

AHMR

African Human Mobility Review



AFRICAN HUMAN MOBILITY REVIEW

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.

AHMR EDITORIAL BOARD

Our prestigious **Editorial Board** includes:

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AHMR EDITORIAL TEAM



Prof. Mulugeta Dinbabo
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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*.



Dr Sergio Carciotto
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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@gmail.com

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 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.

PROOFREADING

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LAYOUT AND GRAPHICS

Filippo Ferraro

SPECIAL ISSUE “CITIES OF CONTAGION: PANDEMIC PRECARITY, MIGRATION, AND FOOD SECURITY IN URBAN AFRICA”

AHMR VOLUME 10 NUMBER 3 SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2024



Guest Editors: Prof. Jonathan Crush and Mr. Zack Ahmed

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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All graphics by SIHMA

**WORLD'S POPULATION
LIVING OUTSIDE
THEIR COUNTRY OF
NATIONALITY IN 2024**

304 MILLION

Source: UN DESA, 2025

3.7% OF TOTAL POPULATION WORLDWIDE



34.5 MILLION INTERNALLY DISPLACED WOMEN & GIRLS (53% OF ALL IDPS)

Source: UNICEF, 2025



50 MILLION FORCIBLY DISPLACED CHILDREN BY THE END OF 2024 (49% OF ALL FORCIBLY DISPLACED PEOPLE)

Source: UNICEF, 2025

**AFRICA HOSTED 29.2 MILLION
INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS IN 2024
(5% INCREASE FROM 2020)**

**86% OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS IN
AFRICA ORIGINATED FROM WITHIN THE
AFRICAN REGION**

Source: UN DESA, 2025

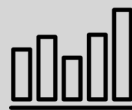
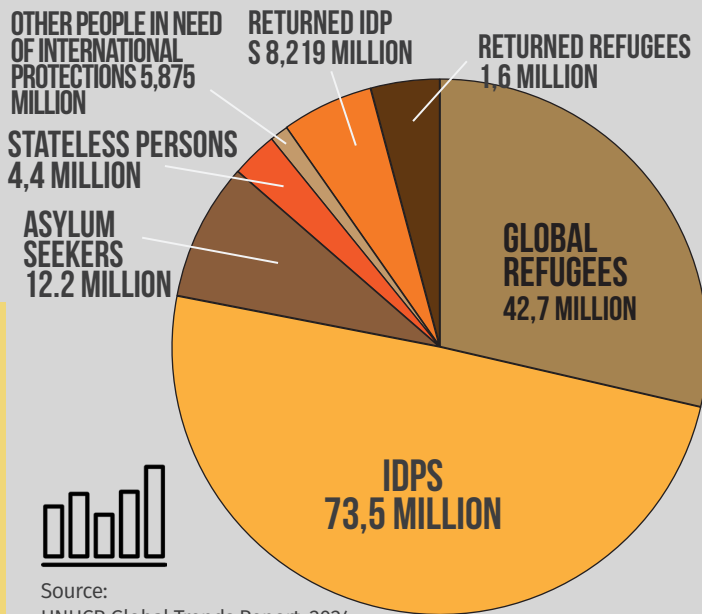
AFRICA ON THE MOVE 2024

**123.2
MILLION**

**TOTAL FORCIBLY DISPLACED
POPULATIONS IN THE WORLD**

Source:
UNHCR, 2025a

**(A 6.2% INCREASE FROM THE PREVIOUS YEAR
AND A 52% INCREASE OVER THE PAST DECADE)**



Source:
UNHCR Global Trends Report, 2024

FORCIBLY DISPLACED AND STATELESS POPULATIONS IN AFRICA (BY REGION):

Category	East and Horn of Africa & Great Lakes	Southern Africa	West and Central Africa
Refugees	5.6 million	819,582	2.9 million
Asylum-seekers		198,743	
IDPs	20.7 million	6,773,271	8.9 million
Returned Refugees	240,000	n/a	42,000
Stateless Persons			1 million

Source: UNHCR, 2024a, 2024b, 2025c, 2025d, 2025e



IN MID 2023, 73% OF FORCIBLY DISPLACES INDIVIDUALS WORLDWIDE WERE HOSTED IN LOW AND MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES.

Source: UNCHR, mid 2024



AMONG 84 COUNTRIES ASSESSED, 33% HAVE DEVELOPED SPECIFIC MEASURES TO PROMOTE THE ETHICAL RECRUITMENT OF MIGRANT WORKERS

Source: Migration Governance Indicators, 2024.

10 AFRICAN COUNTRIES HOST 7 MILLION REFUGEES



Source: 2024. UNHCR Global Trends Forced Displacement

TOP 10 MIGRATION DESTINATIONS FOR ALL OF AFRICA (MIGRANT STOCK)

1. Côte 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

TOP 10 DESTINATION COUNTRIES OF REFUGEES IN AFRICA

1. Uganda	1.72 million
2. Chad	1.29 million
3. Ethiopia	1.01 million
4. Sudan	0.79 million
5. Kenya	0.60 million
6. DRC	0.52 million
7. South Sudan	0.51 million
8. Cameroon	0.43 million
9. Niger	0.27 million
10. Egypt	0.24 million

FATALITIES AND CHALLENGES

Source: IOM 2024 ?



2024 WAS THE DEADLIEST YEAR ON RECORD FOR MIGRANTS, WITH AN ESTIMATED 9,191 DEATHS AND DISAPPEARANCES GLOBALLY.

OVER 2,000 MIGRANT DEATHS OCCURRED IN AFRICA.

THE MEDITERRANEAN ROUTE ALONE ACCOUNTED FOR 1,200 DEATHS.

49% OF SCHOOL-AGED REFUGEE CHILDREN (7.2 MILLION) ARE OUT OF SCHOOL.



POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS



188,800 REFUGEES WERE RESETTLED BASED ON GOVERNMENT STATISTICS. UNHCR SUBMITTED 155,500 REFUGEES FOR RESETTLEMENT.

88,900 STATELESS PEOPLE HAD THEIR NATIONALITY CONFIRMED OR ACQUIRED CITIZENSHIP



9.8 MILLION DISPLACED PEOPLE RETURNED TO THEIR AREAS OR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN (8.2 MILLION IDPS AND OVER 1.6 MILLION REFUGEES).

Source: UNHCR Global Trends Report 2024



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 AT 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 understanding better 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.

We usually cover usually 4 main areas:

1. 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).

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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, art, and video production.

17-20 July 2024

TRAINING COURSE ON PASTORAL CARE OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN UGANDA

Workshop by **SIHMA and SIMI**, Aru Centre Kampala (Uganda)

The Scalabrini Institute for Human Mobility in Africa (SIHMA) in collaboration with Scalabrini International Migration Institute (SIMI) and the Missionaries of St Charles Scalabrini, Uganda conducted a training workshop for pastoral agents of migrants and refugees in Kampala, Uganda.

The training workshop was conducted at the ARU Centre from the 17th to the 20th of July 2024. The purpose of the training workshop was to equip pastoral agents of migration with an understanding of human mobility in Africa, skills and knowledge to work with migrants and refugees that they serve in their organisations, dioceses and districts.

The workshop was facilitated by a team of experts who have experience and skills in the field of migration. These include researchers, Scalabrini priests working with and on issues of migrants, lawyers or advocates and other experts that work with migrants and refugees in Uganda and other regions globally. The list of presenters included Fr Filippo Ferraro (SIHMA), Dr Rachel Chinyakata (SIHMA), Br Gioacchino Campese (SIMI), Fr Aldo Skoda (SIMI), Fr John Kawisha (Missionaries of St Charles Scalabrini), Dr Fredrick Ssemwanga, Fr Walter Diaz (Missionaries of St Charles Scalabrini) and Sr Linah Siabana (Missionary Sisters of our Lady of Africa).

The main topics that were covered in the programme of the workshop included:

1. Introduction to the fundamentals of migration;
2. Understanding human mobility in Africa;
3. The complex impact of migration on policies, society, and economy;
4. The Christian perspective on migration;
5. The response of the church to the challenges of migration;
6. The teaching of the church: a path of Justice and Inclusion; Serving People on the move in Africa;
7. Cases about documentation of urban refugees and migrants;
8. The impact of migration on the mental health of migrants and refugees;
9. Journeys of reconciliation;
10. Mapping the access to social services for migrants and refugees.



A WINDOW ONTO MIGRATION: 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.

Representatives from refugee communities in settlements and out of settlements were also given an opportunity to attend, share their life experiences and contribute to ways in which the lives of refugees can be enhanced in Uganda. The workshops were attended mainly by Catholic sisters and brothers, catholic priests, representatives from organisations that serve refugees and other lay people. In concluding the workshop, the attendees shared their experiences of the workshop including how it had enhanced their knowledge and ways to work with refugees in Uganda and beyond. The attendees also shared their goal or plans of action on how they are going to use the knowledge that they received during the four days training. The training not only equipped pastoral agents with the knowledge and capacity to work with people on the move in their various dioceses and organisations but emphasised the significance of collective effort in facilitating integration and protection for migrants and refugees. The workshop provided a platform for the pastoral agents to share and collectively map stakeholders and organisations which support refugees. Mapping services is important in ensuring referral pathways for migrants and refugees and for comprehensive care leveraging on the strength and speciality of each organisation. Through the workshop the need for evidence-based research and follow-up/ongoing training sessions was reinforced as pathways for strengthened support and integration for migrants and refugees in Uganda.

1. ATLAS OF AFRICAN MIGRATION (ONLINE FROM MAY 2025)

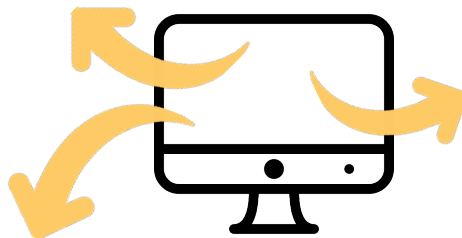
This online portal, housed in our website, will provide the migration profile of the majority of the 54 countries in the continent. Using a rigorous desk-top research method based on the existing literature and data we aim at providing an understanding of the complex movement, made of specific patterns: mixed migration, regional and internal migration, South-South migration, rural to urban migration, returnees. A total of 25 country profiles have been developed and will be uploaded on the SIHMA website by April 2025.

Beside a geographical and historical context that provides basic information of the country, we analyzed the main pull and push factors, the legal framework of policies and their many actors (governments, institutions, legislation) and the main component of the movement of people to-from-within the country. Info about conflict and disaster-related displacement, statistics of immigrants and emigrants, gender and minors, labour migration, statistics of asylum seekers and refugees are available as a starting point to deepen the understanding and awareness about this topic. Concise overviews on displacement, human trafficking, remittances, return and returnees and migration-related international organizations within the country are also available. You can find the sources of all findings, a list of references and links to other sources.

A customised series of infographics makes reading and understanding the text and topics smooth and intuitive. As a guarantee of the reliability and transparency of our work, all data is updated periodically and the site always indicates the last date on which the text was modified.

2. NARRATIVES ON HUMAN MOBILITY (FROM JUNE 2025)

This new section aims to dispel harmful myths about migration. In the media, migrants are often misunderstood and defamed. By providing a different context and first-hand accounts of migration, the project aims to offer a different and more realistic view of the dynamics and subjects of human mobility. By making the direct voices of the protagonists accessible and more understandable, we want to provide the reader with a more objective and comprehensive picture of migration in Africa. The project includes reviews of books and films (by African authors), media products from different platforms, cultural events, and videos of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers telling their stories of travel and their communities. The collection of stories will highlight the wide variety of backgrounds, circumstances, difficulties, and hopes of people on the move and offer their perspective on human mobility.



3. VISUAL HISTORY OF MIGRATION (IN PROGRESS)

This is the third part of our project on African migration narratives, through which we aim to provide readers with tools for direct in-depth analysis. We are working on a series of articles focusing on historical events or periods that have had an impact on the movement of people across the continent: from wars to great discoveries, from colonisation to independence processes, from climatic events to major economic and social changes. Presented as a fluid timeline, it will offer information from various historical sources, commentary and news, and documents from the period to show the evolution of migration in Africa, thanks also to a series of infographics, images and videos.



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

30 April 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"

Validation Workshop by **SIHMA**, Cape Town

As part of its 10 years of existence celebrations, SIHMA held an event to launch the research on "Border towns and spaces of (in)visibility: A Study of young people on the move in the border towns of Chipata and Katete, Zambia" (see page. 20). Aiming to bridge the gap between academia and practice in order to inform programmes, policies, and **advocacy for children on the move**, we gathered stakeholders and partners to share the draft of the report and its main findings. The researchers Rebecca Walker and Glynis Clacherty introduced the study, methodology and findings and lastly was the discussions moderated by SIHMA Research Team. The event was attended by scholars, representatives of national and international organisations and institutions and practitioners working in the NGO sector with children on the move in Cape Town. An overview of the experiences of young people in the border towns was provided drawing on the study with a particular focus on **participatory research** methodology used in the study. The researchers highlighted particularly how drawings and visual mapping provide important and sensitive approaches to conducting research with young migrants and other marginalized groups. 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. During the discussion, the researchers explained how young people on the move employ strategies 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.

These **strategies of (in)visibility** provide a way to protect themselves yet, at the same time also heighten some of the risks young people face, as their vulnerabilities are not always recognised by those who could offer support. Furthermore, findings showed that the realities and challenges of life and migration in the SADC region and in Zambia need to be better understood for support to be strengthened and tuned to meet the specific needs of young people on the move. This includes understanding the role of state and non-state stakeholders, the impact of laws and policies and, critically, the experiences of the young people themselves. During the discussion with the various stakeholders who were attending this event, recommendations for immediate action, 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 recommendations for longer term policy advocacy were discussed. The event was video recorded and will be available as an Online resource on our website, as a tool for advocating for change. Following this event, SIHMA will continue to engage with other stakeholders in the SADC region on how young people on the move especially the ones that are invisible can be protected.

1 June 2024

SCALABRINI DAY EVENT

Annual Workshop by **SIHMA, SCCT and Lawrence House**, Cape Town

Scalabrini Day is traditionally held on the 1st of June to celebrate the teaching and vision of Saint John Baptist Scalabrini, founder of the Missionaries of St Charles, who advocated for the welfare of migrants. On the 3rd of June, staff members and board members from the Scalabrini Institute for Human Mobility in Africa (SIHMA), the Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town and Lawrence House, and the Scalabrini Fathers gathered together to engage in different activities as a way to reflect on his vision and mission. It's a precious opportunity to strengthen our work with people on the move. The initial presentation provided some information on the history of the Scalabrini network and how it has managed to grow and expand, seeking to increasingly meet the needs of migrants and refugees in different areas and throughout different historical periods. Then, all staff members of our organisations offered an overview of their activities, showcasing the work that their different platforms/departments do in relation to **the mission of "welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating people on the move into local communities."**

In particular, the Lawrence house team showed how they "welcome" young people into their facility and use the circle of courage to ensure belonging and empowerment. SCCT Advocacy through a documentary showed ways in which they "protect" migrants, ensuring them access to their rights and protection from detention and deportation. The Wellbeing and Development team highlighted how they "promote" development through the trauma informed approach and skills development. The Integration Pathways shared their initiatives (develop, CVs, English classes, IT skills, tertiary qualification and recognition). Also, Operations gave a summary of how they make our clients feel welcomed and supported, in the spirit and ethos of St John Scalabrini's tradition. SIHMA presented the different projects that have been completed and those still on progress, especially the Atlas for African Migration. The research team explained the goal of this tool and how it's relevance also for our clients and for all people working directly with people on the move, a solid understanding of human mobility in Africa.

Finally Fr Filippo Ferraro (Executive Director of SIHMA and the Chairperson of the Scalabrini Centre Board), shared the importance of **spirituality as a core mission** for the work that is done with migrants who are served by the Scalabrini network. He also highlighted the importance of viewing migration from the immigrant's perspective. Scalabrini Day confirmed how it is crucial, when working in the field of human mobility, to understand the fundamental impact of migration on everybody's life.

11-12 July 2024

"MIGRATION STUDIES: THE STATE OF ART"

Conference by **CSER**, Rome (Italy)

Centro Studi Emigrazione (CSER) in Rome organised an international conference attended also by the other members of the network of the Scalabrini International Migration Study Centres: Centre for Migration Studies (CMS) in New York, Centro De Estudios Migratorios (CEM) in Sao Paulo, Centro de Estudios Migratorios Latinoamericanos (CEMLA) in Argentina, Centre d'information et d'études sur les migrations internationales (CIEMI) in Paris, Scalabrini Migration Center in Manila and SIHMA. The meeting was attended by the directors of the study centres and the experts from each study centre. The purpose of the gathering was to discuss the state of research on migration in the geographical areas where each study centre operates: data, trend and topics, networks, all relevant aspects for the development of the strategy of our study centres,

IN 2006 the AU Executive Council adopted the Migration Policy Framework and the African Common Position on Migration and Development, aligning AU Member States on a shared goal of cross-border movement. By 2012, the AU had initiated the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) to encourage labour mobility across borders. Further emphasizing this commitment, the AU adopted the Solemn Declaration in 2013 on the 50th anniversary of the OAU, pledging to promote African citizenship, pan-Africanism, and an African Renaissance through free movement. Efforts to streamline cross-border travel continued, with the AU Assembly's 2015 decision to accelerate the process for free movement and develop an African passport. In 2016, this passport was launched at the AU Summit, symbolizing a new era for travel across Africa. Subsequently, the AU Executive Council pushed forward by calling for relaxed visa requirements, facilitating Africans' unrestricted movement. This led to the development of the FMP, which was officially adopted by the AU Assembly in January 2018. Through the FMP, the AU has formalized the right of residence and establishment across member states, signifying a major step in African integration. The protocol serves as a milestone towards making Africa a unified space where movement, trade, and social exchange transcend borders, promoting pan-African unity and growth.

The benefits of the FMP for African countries and migrants would be multiple. The draft Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence, and Right of Establishment in Africa promises increased intra-African trade and investment, a crucial area for growth as current intra-African trade levels account for just 10% of total continental trade — a figure that lags significantly behind those of other regions such as Latin America (22%) and East Asia (50%). By enabling easier movement across borders, Africa can unlock substantial opportunities for trade and investment, allowing for a more robust economic integration. Second, the protocol promotes enhanced access to quality education and healthcare. Experts emphasize that the movement of individuals, particularly students, across African borders for education is key to developing the human capital needed for the continent's economic transformation. Given that over 60% of Africa's population is youth, investing in education and training through the free movement of people will be essential for nations to harness their demographic potential. Additionally, enhanced movement supports access to healthcare by facilitating mobility from primary care to specialized health services, fostering a stronger health infrastructure across regions. Another benefit of free movement is



the facilitation of labour mobility, which will bridge skills imbalances between countries. By promoting labour migration, AU member states can address both surpluses and deficits in skilled labour, stimulate regional economic development, and enable the optimal use of Africa's human resources. This mobility will allow for the transfer of essential and specialized skills, reduce regional inequalities, and promote economic growth by increasing remittances among African workers. Studies show that migrant workers contribute significantly to both high-skilled and low-skilled labour markets, helping to balance labour needs across countries and boost productivity. Finally, free movement of persons is expected to increase tourism, enhance continental integration, and strengthen pan-Africanism. Data from AU Member States such as Ghana, Mauritius, Rwanda, Senegal, and Seychelles, which have implemented relaxed visa policies or visa-on-arrival for African nationals, show positive outcomes. These policies have supported intra-African tourism, bolstered integration, and fostered a collective sense of African identity. By reducing travel restrictions, the protocol not only promotes tourism but also encourages cross-border skill sharing, entrepreneurship, and

innovation, thereby enhancing Africa's economic competitiveness and fostering a unified continental identity. There are challenges and problems, but the development of a possible road map for the ratification and implementation of the FMP has been placed as an important item on the African Union's agenda, supported by the opinion of experts who have highlighted the possibilities and advantages. However, given that the positions of the various delegations remain so varied and sometimes opposed, it remains to be seen on what common ground this dialogue and cooperation can begin.

26 September 2024

"THE NEED TO BELONG: PATHWAYS TOWARDS DURABLE SOLUTIONS" CHILDREN ON THE MOVE CONFERENCE IN CAPE TOWN

2nd Children on the move Conference in Cape Town

By **Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town**, Cape Town

Between the 25-27 September SCCT held the conference "The need to belong: pathways towards durable solutions", focusing on the integration and documentation processes for young migrants and Children on the Move. The event highlighted the challenges related to social and school integration, as well as the acquisition of South African citizenship for unaccompanied minors. On behalf of SIHMA, Dr. Glynis Clacherty presented the findings and recommendations of the "Pathways of well-being and (un)belonging" report. Many youth bravely shared their stories with us, opening up about their personal experiences, emotions, and challenges they faced along the difficult journey of family reunification, citizenship acquisition, or integration into South African society. Among the main areas of interest and intervention for Children on the move we stressed:

- Research on Mental Health (pressing need for further research focused on the mental health conditions of minors, particularly regarding the emotional impact of migration and the processes of integration -) to understand and developing effective support systems.
- Evaluation of Best Practices (research and documentation are necessary to identify and evaluate existing best practices that aim to foster a sense of belonging), including a wide range of stakeholders.
- Review of the Children's Act (it is crucial to initiate a dialogue between policymakers and relevant stakeholder platforms, focusing on reviewing the programs and standards outlined in the legislative framework that pertains to the documentation and integration).

- Methods of Integration (special attention should be given to innovative and creative approaches that foster relationships among young people and enhance the mental health of vulnerable children).
- Alternative Care Research (feasibility of alternative care placements for Children on the Move in their countries of origin; primary challenge for social workers in reuniting minors with their families is parental dishonesty).
- Advocacy for Citizenship Pathways (to educate individuals about the correct pathways to citizenship, particularly concerning the specific requirements associated with each pathway), elucidating the legal processes that migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and unaccompanied minors must navigate (including timeframes for accessing citizenship).

SIHMA presented also **the short movie We Made This!** This was created by the young participants of the research project, translating into a video their shared experience about belonging. It is available on the SIHMA Youtube channel and [here](#) on our website.

5 November 2024

"CONFLICT AND HUMAN DISPLACEMENT"

Webinar by **University of Oslo Faculty of Theology**, Oslo (Norway)

On Monday, October 28th, the SIHMA director presented a keynote address at the "Conflict and Human Displacement" conference organized by the Faculty of Theology at the University of Oslo. The event was part of the "Migration, Ethics, and Theology" webinar series, a collaboration between the Scalabrini International Migration Institute (SIMI) in Rome and scholars involved in the Nordhost project on migration and hospitality within a Nordic context. The webinar series aims to foster networks among scholars and Christian organizations to deepen the understanding of migration issues. Specifically, this initiative provides a platform for dialogue and exchange of practices and lessons learned within Christian communities, facilitating ongoing conversations on migration issues among theologians, scholars, refugees, activists, and leaders from church and civic spheres. The main focus of Fr. Ferraro's presentation was the significant impact of conflict, violence, and war on migration in Sub-Saharan Africa. His speech highlighted that the conflicts in Western Sahel have led to an increase in displaced persons, and a consequent worsening of the conditions and human rights. The content is available in the Online resources section of our website.

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.



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.



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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.



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

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Despite the end of the financial year 2024-25 bringing painful surprises for the non-profit sector, especially those dedicated to serving the most vulnerable, with radical and unexpected funding cuts to various organisations around the world and particularly in South Africa, SIHMA presents a stable financial situation. Of course, the general increase in costs and the desire to pursue new opportunities and growth projects on the continent would require the search for additional funding (from both foreign and local sources).

This is both to enable the Study Centre to guarantee the high quality standards of its work (in terms of research, publications and training) and to ensure the serious and controlled management of its financial operations. This accuracy has enabled SIHMA to achieve excellent levels of reliability and financial transparency, so that donors and funders are satisfied and confident about the use of resources and the timely completion of funded activities. This year, SIHMA has also optimised its procedures to be increasingly active and efficient in various areas of the African continent, where our work is increasingly in demand and appreciated at different levels.

PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT	2023-24	2024-25
Support from Headquarters	707,288	897,462
Grant Income - Local	36,000	8,000
Grant Income - Overseas	32,982	615,97
Income Generating Projects	857,494	607,991
Other Income	26,627	11,551
Interest Earnings	78,002	91,338
TOTAL INCOME	1,738,394	2,232,312
Research & Publications	401,822	367,366
Operational Expenses	345,426	385,235
Website & Communications	39,350	54,542
Project Expenses	399,963	490,415
Staff Costs	822,620	851,757
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	2,009,180	2,149,314
Funding remaining (ring-fenced)	(270,787)	82,998
BALANCE SHEET	2023-24	2024-25
Cash on Hand	1,193,527	1,226,269
Fixed Assets	12,477	9,173
Liabilities	397,433	362,45
Equity	811,195	894,193

Numbers in ZA Rands

Compiled by Malcolm Salida (10 August2025)

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PEOPLE BEHIND THE FIGURES