

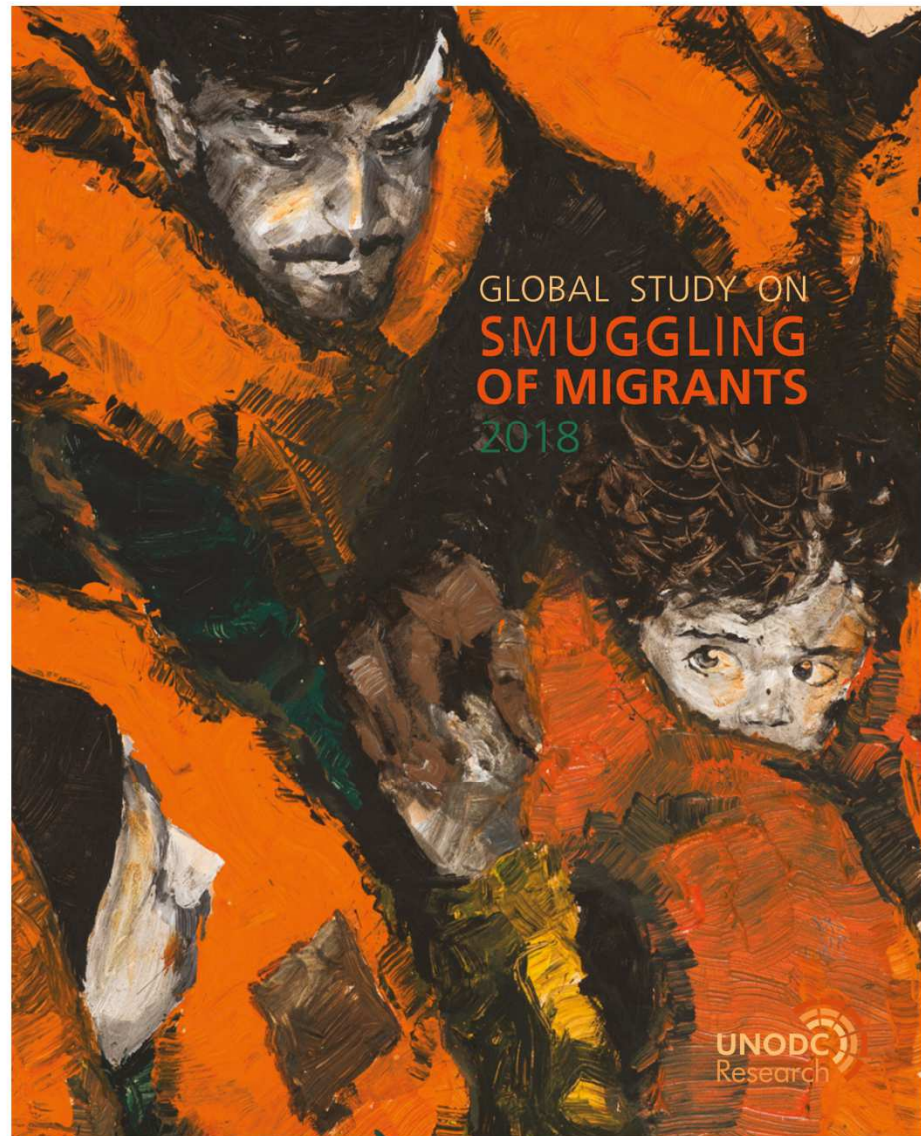


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Advance briefing



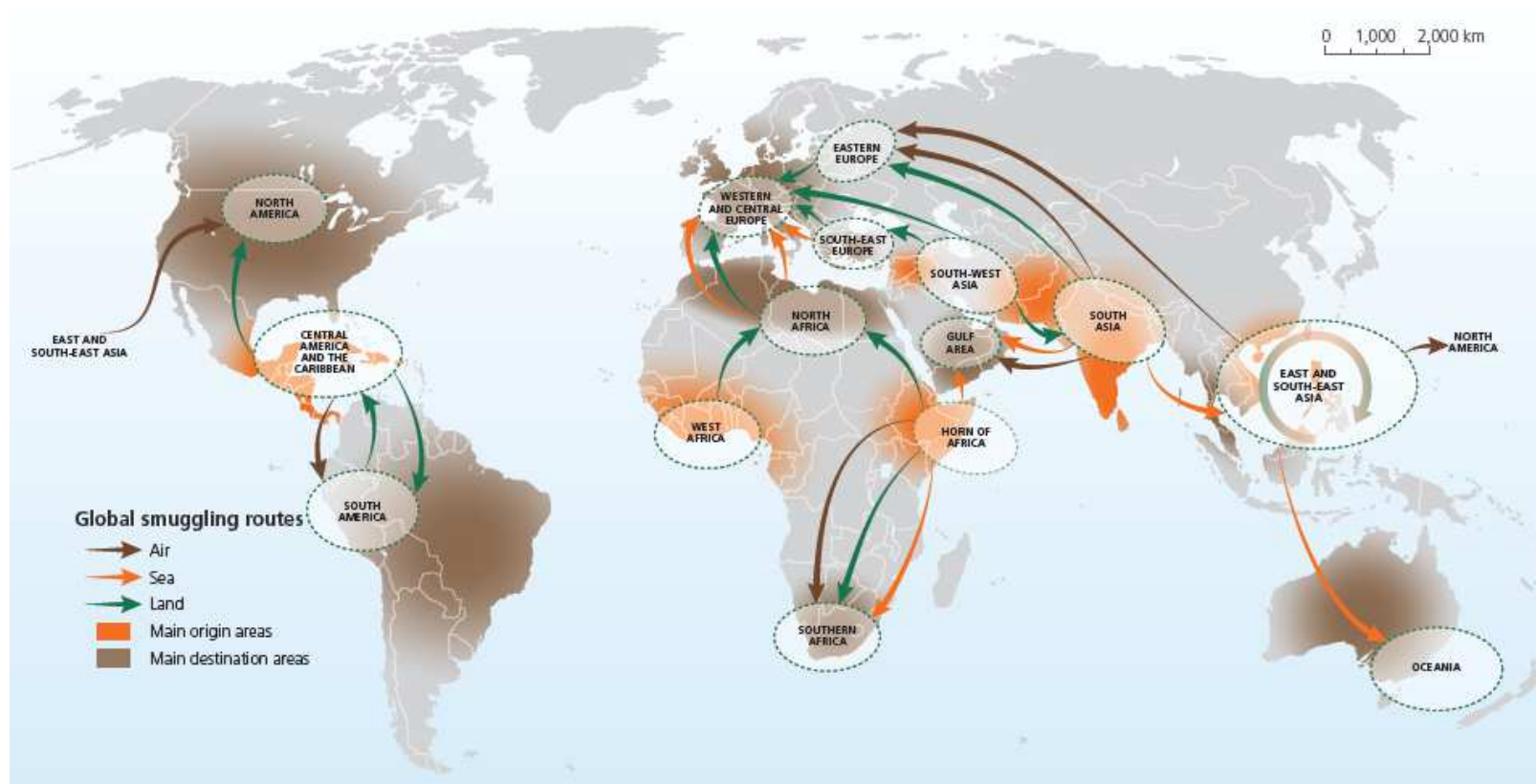


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Migrants are smuggled in all regions of the world





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Smuggling of migrants is a big business with high profits

Aggregating information on what is known and reported, UNODC found that in 2016:

- At a minimum, along selected routes, **2.5 million migrants** were smuggled
- For an economic return of **US\$5.5-7 billion**



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Supply and demand

Factors determining the demand for smuggling



Need to migrate due to armed conflict, persecution, socio-economic hardship or other reasons



Mobility regulations and restrictions



Expensive and lengthy procedures to obtain regular travel documents

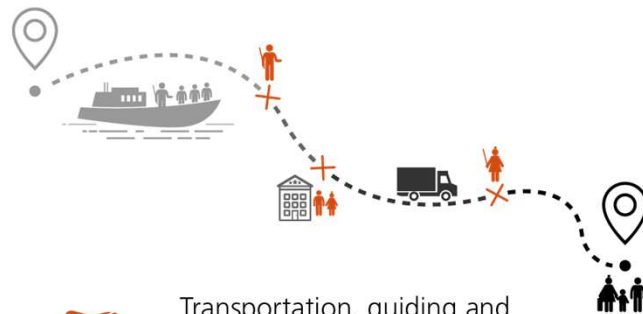


Marketing and misinformation by smugglers



Smugglers' recruitment and community pressure

Services supplied by smugglers



Transportation, guiding and escorting during irregular border crossing



Accommodation along the route



Planning and contacts along the route



Information and corruption



Travel documents (counterfeit, false, fraudulently obtained, etc.)

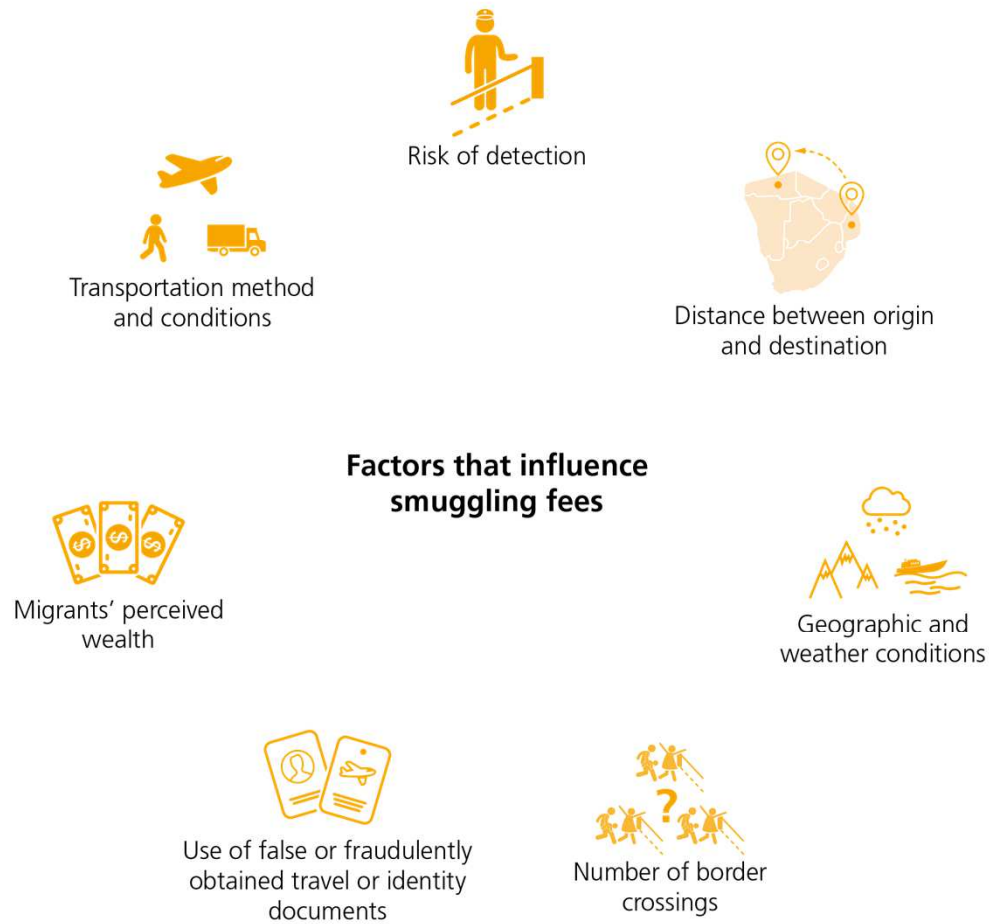


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Smuggling fees





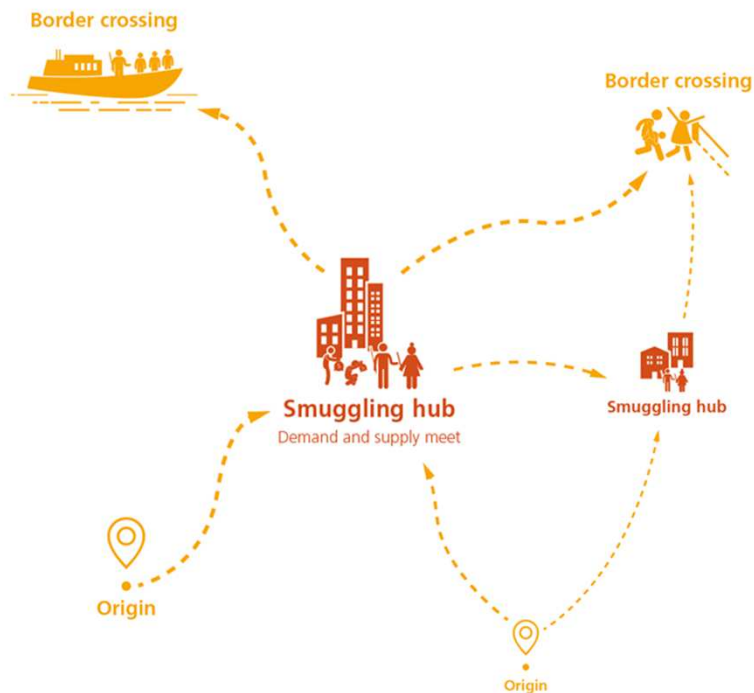
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Smuggling routes change but hubs are stable

Stable hubs, dynamic routes



While routes may change, smuggling hubs, where the demand and supply of smuggling services meet, are rather stable over time.

Routes are determined by:

- Geography
- Border control
- Migration policy in destinations
- Smugglers' connections across countries
- Cost of the package offered by smugglers

Hubs serve as:

- Meeting places where disparate routes converge
- Places to arrange subsequent travel



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Smugglers often have ethnic and/or geographical links

Smugglers and migrants:

- Have ethnic and linguistic ties
- Come from the same community

Smugglers:

- Have extensive knowledge of the territory and the best methods to reach the destination



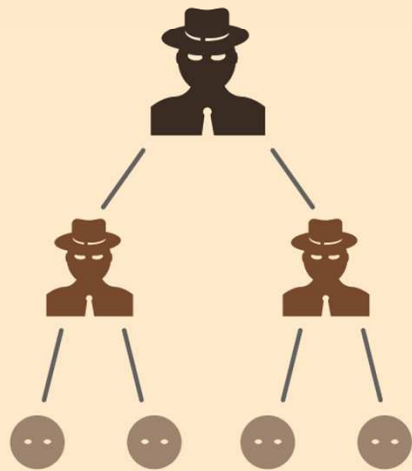
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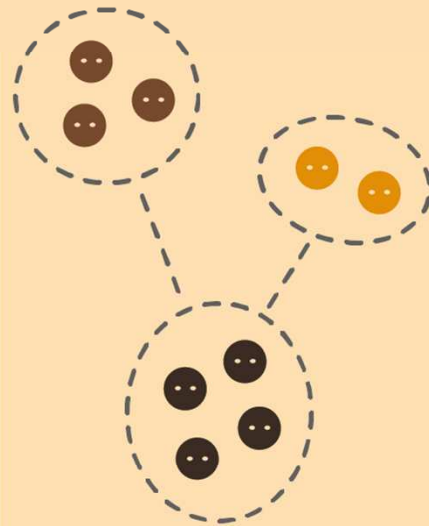
The organization of migrant smuggling

Hierarchical



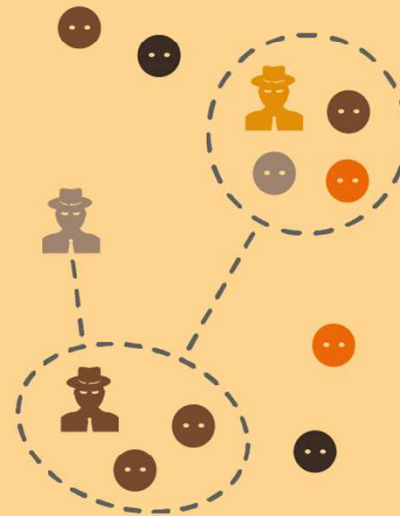
Well-organized, often long journeys across multiple borders

Networks



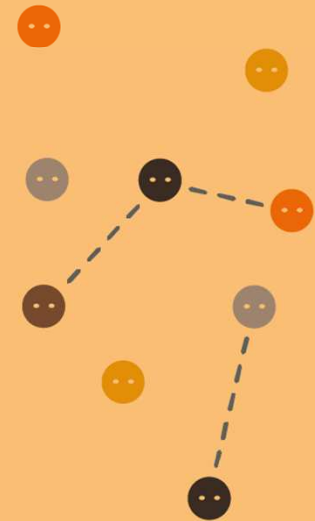
Looser networks where collaboration is occasional

Mixed



Mix of networks and individual smugglers

Individuals



Individual smugglers often acting opportunistically (may be resident in border areas)



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Business of smuggling

Different activities at different stages:

- At origin: Recruitment and publicizing the services
- Along the route: Transportation, housing, border crossing
- At destination: Arrangements for stay

Different ways to organize smuggling:

- Comprehensive package from origin to destination
- Several independent or connected legs
- Territorial control by smugglers



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Corruption

Systematic corruption at most levels and along all the identified routes involving:

- Petty corruption at individual border control points
- Grand corruption at higher levels of government
- Corruption of officials to obtain travel documents to which the traveler is not entitled



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Smuggling networks may have links with other criminal organizations

- To pay for the 'right' to safe passage for migrants
- To hand over migrants for extortion of ransom, robbery or other abuse
- In some areas, migrants are smuggled along similar routes as illicit drugs and/or weapons



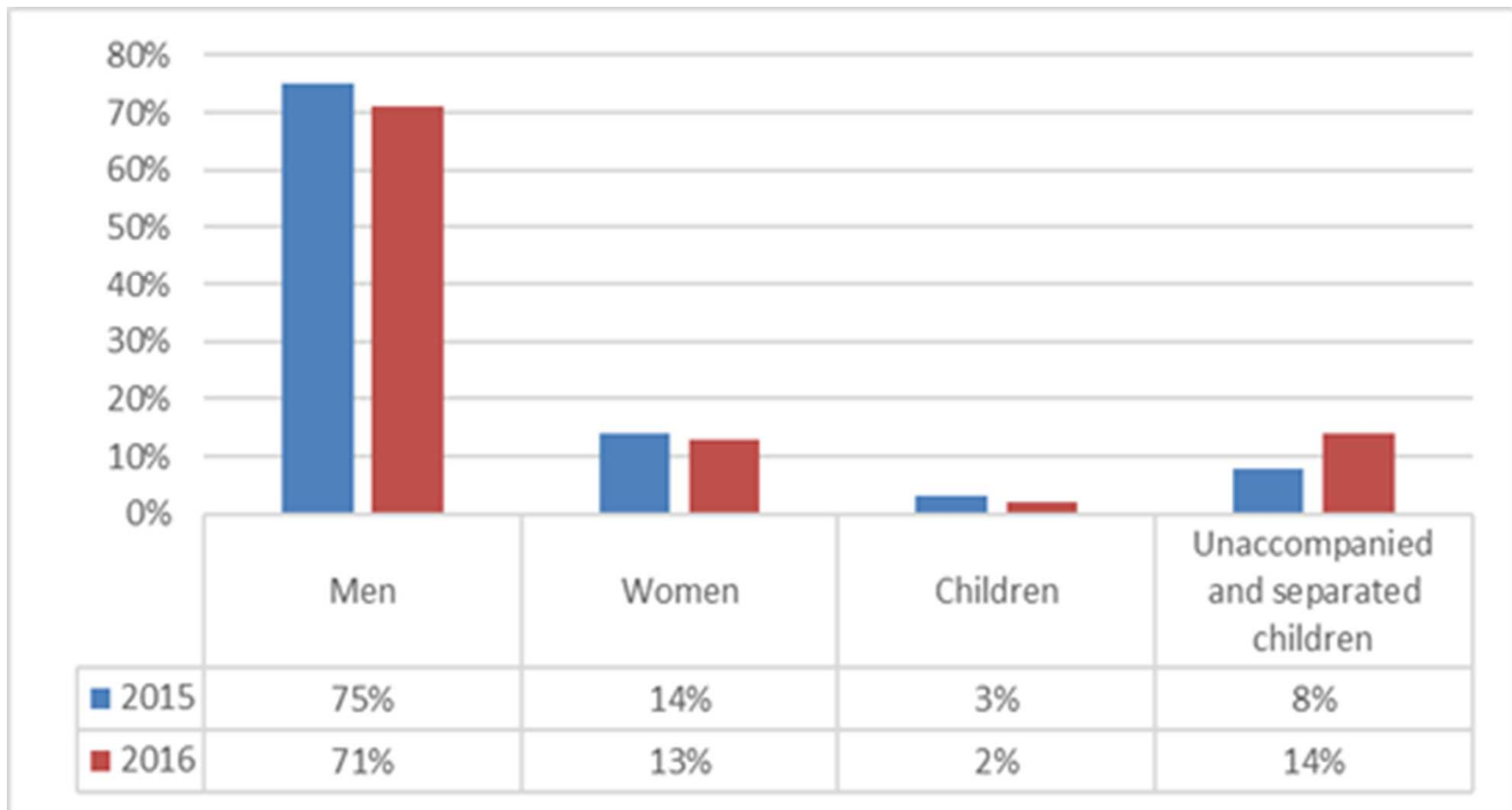
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Most smuggled migrants are young men

Share of arrivals in Italy along the Central Mediterranean route by age and sex, 2015-2016





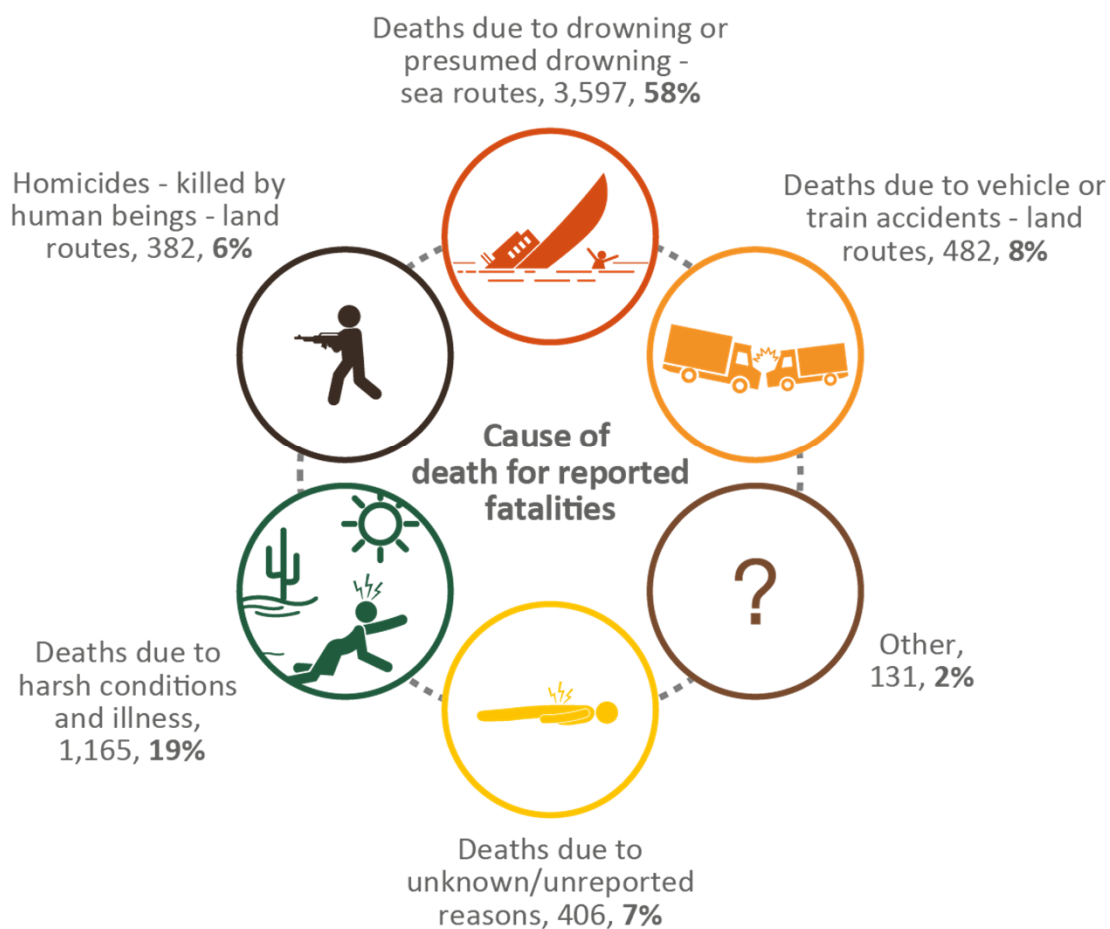
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Migrant smuggling can be deadly

Migrants can be abused, assaulted, raped, exploited and killed





<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/glosom.html>