

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS BETWEEN FORCED RETURN AND VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION

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INTRODUCTION

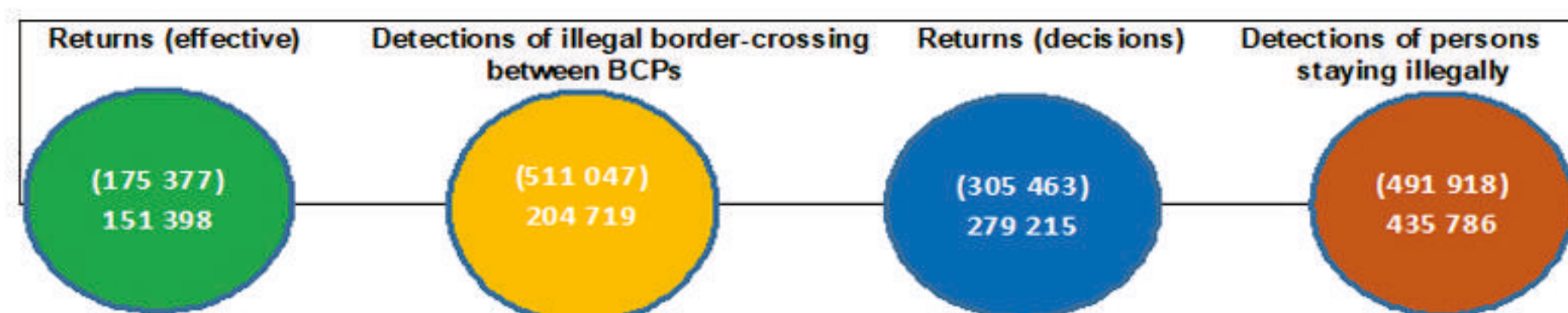
Even if the echoes of what was called the "refugee crisis" began to fade away, there were plenty of questions about how the EU managed the influx and what lessons were learned for the future. One of the responses to effective crisis management was the return of illegal aliens who have neither qualified for international protection nor for obtaining a legal stay in the territory of the Member States. "Return" means the process of a non-EU national going back - whether in voluntary compliance with an obligation to return, or enforced - to his or her country of origin, a country of transit in accordance with EU or bilateral readmission agreements or other arrangements, another non-EU country, to which the non-EU national concerned voluntarily decides to return and in which he or she will be accepted.

INTERNATIONAL

AND NATIONAL CONTEXT

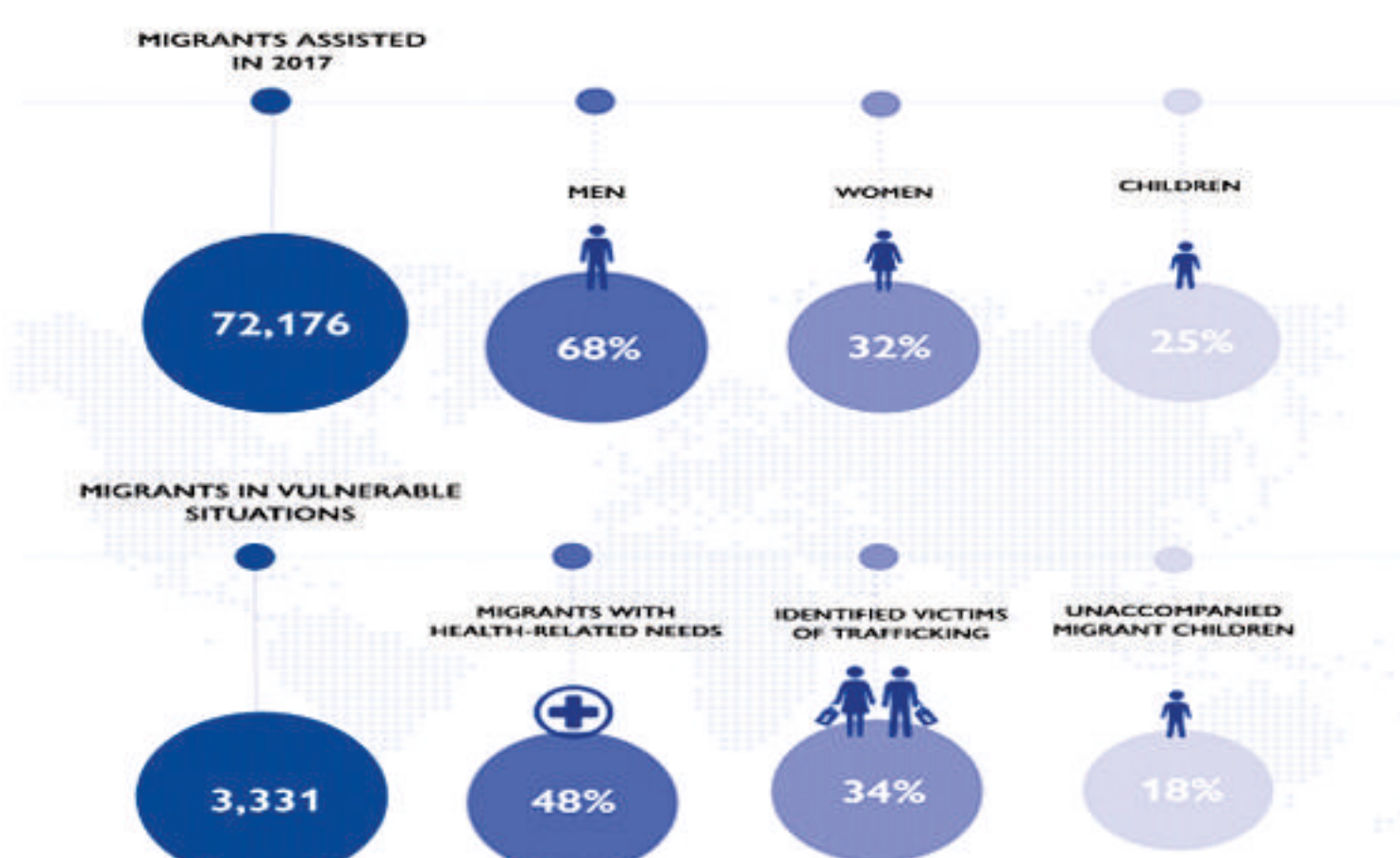
In 2017, Member States reported a further drop in the detections of illegal border crossing along the EU's external borders, with 204 719 detections recorded that year. This represents a 60% decrease compared with the 511 047 detections of 2016 and an 89% decrease compared with the 1.8 million detections at the height of the migratory crisis in 2015.

Figure 1 Latest Trends on Irregular Migration (2016) Versus 2017



Source: prepared by the authors based on the data provided by FRONTEX in Risk Analysis for 2018

Figure 2 Number and Categories of Voluntarily Repatriated Persons from Europe in 2017



Source: IOM, 2018.

Note: Figures on reintegration assistance are consolidated at the global level and presented in the annual AVR Key Highlights

METHODOLOGY

The research method used in our study is the comparative analysis, which is especially common in the social and political sciences. Based on variables established so that we can find answers for both phenomena, we analyzed the main issues that could lead to results and proposals that contribute to the efficient management of return and the situations in which it is used.

Table 1 Comparative Analysis between Voluntary Repatriation and Forced Return

	Forced Return	Voluntary Repatriation
Definition	The return of persons who are required by law to leave but not consented to do so and who are subject to coercion in order to affect their removal	Compliance with the obligation to return within the time-limit fixed for that purpose in the return decision
Beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The country of transit or origin requires the escort of the person -The person must be supervised to prevent actions of criminal nature during the removal measures -There are indications that the person will not comply with the removal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Individuals whose application for asylum was rejected or withdrawn -Stranded migrants -Victims of trafficking
Escort	The person is accompanied by the specialized staff of the immigration authorities up to the border or to the country of origin, transit or destination.	The person will not be escorted and handed over to the immigration authorities of his/ her origin country.
Implication on travel documents	The travel documents will have a special remarks about removal action "flight route/accompanied by an escort" and the border police from the landing airport will be informed in advance about the arrival of the person and escort mission.	The travel documents will not have any remarks on removal, and the authorities of the country of origin will not be notified of the return.
Implication on the flight travel	Ticket will be issue with DEPA remark (Deportee accompanied), which involves supplementary security measures taken by the flight company during the flight as well as during the transit (if case). Local border police will provide supplementary staff for surveillance.	Ticket will be issue with DEPU remark (Deportee unaccompanied), which involves less security measures.
Implication on taking personal belongings	Personal belongings have a limitation depending on the flight company not more than 40 kg.	Personal belongings have no limitation in case of using land transportation. Personal belongings quantity can be updated by buying extra luggage in case of using flight transportation.
Assistance in countries of origin	The person will not be longer assisted, except the "pocket money" for local transportation from the landing airport to the city of origin.	Reintegration assistance in IOM AVR Programs, corresponding to economic, social, and psychosocial needs of the returnees, most often including business set-ups, vocational training, formal education or medical assistance.

Source: prepared by the authors

PROPOSALS

- ✓ Counseling sessions of illegal migrants realized by immigration authorities or specialized NGO's in order to aware them of the risks and advantages of the two return options;
- ✓ Analysis of the impact of the counseling activity so that it can be improved along the way, including training programs developed by public authorities / international organizations.

CONCLUSION

The voluntary repatriation needs to become the new way forward for managing the irregular migration flows.



"Millions of refugees dream of going home. As the durable solution of choice for the largest number of refugees, voluntary repatriation in safety and dignity requires the full commitment of the country of origin to help reintegrate its own people".
UNHCR