



Children on the Run: An Analysis of First-Hand Accounts from Children Fleeing Central America

March 12, 2014

Migration Policy Institute

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Regional Human Development Report 2013-2014

Citizen Security with a Human Face: Evidence and Proposals for Latin America



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Resilient nations.*

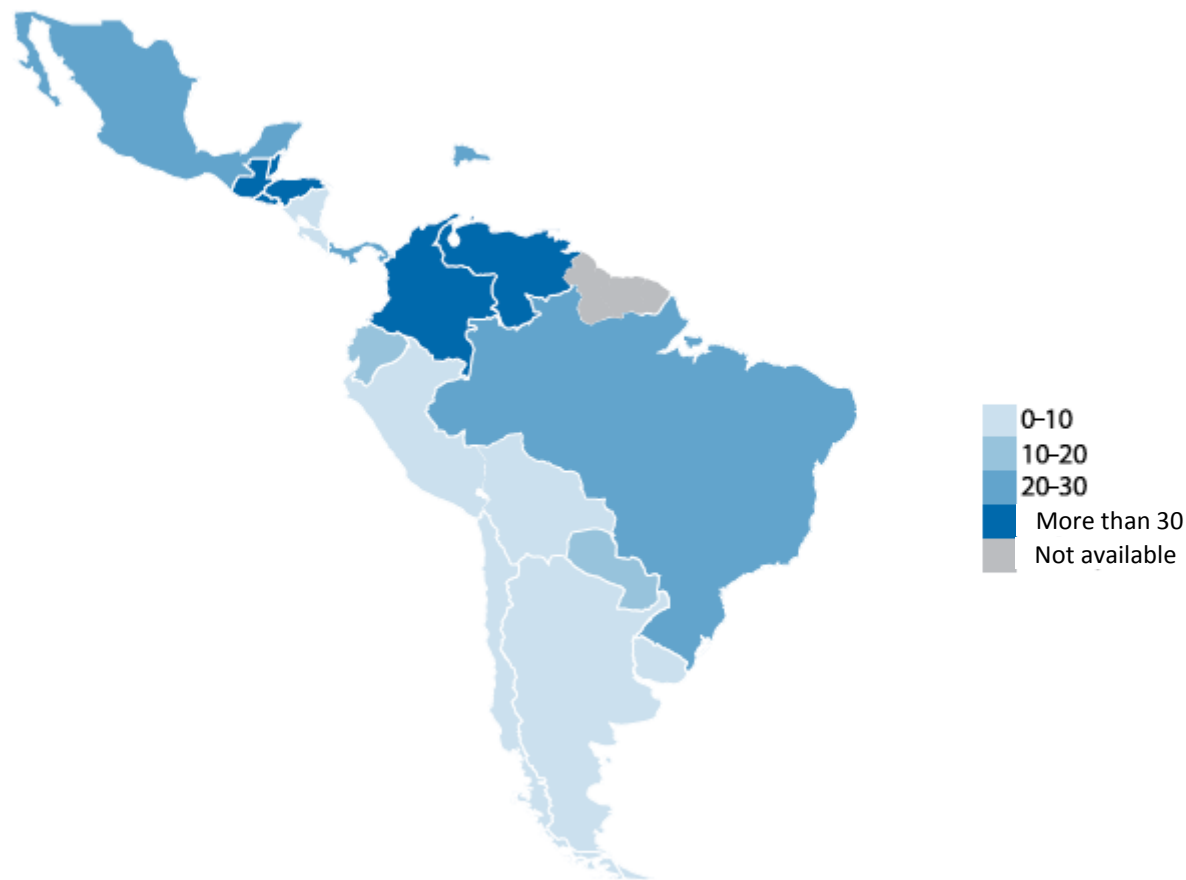


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A common challenge with significant variations

Homicide rate per 100,000 inhabitants, Latin America, last available year

11 countries with epidemic homicide rates



Source: Official administrative records compiled by the UNDP (2013). For Venezuela, UNODC (2012)
Note: The last available year is: El Salvador and Costa Rica: 2012; Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Dominican Republic, and Uruguay: 2011; Mexico and Paraguay: 2010; Bolivia: 2009 and Argentina: 2008.



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Regional Human Development Report 2013-2014

Latin America, homicide, most recent available data
(rate per 100,000 inhabitants)

País	Homicide rate per 100,000 inhabitants	Most recent year
Argentina	5.8	2008
Bolivia	8.4	2009
Brasil	21.5	2011
Chile	2.0	2011
Colombia	32.0	2011
Costa Rica	8.8	2012
Ecuador	16.0	2011
El Salvador	41.2	2012
Guatemala	38.5	2011
Honduras	86.5	2011
México	23.8	2010
Nicaragua	8.7	2011
Panamá	20.8	2011
Paraguay	10.7	2010
Perú	9.0	2011
Rep. Dominicana	25.0	2011
Uruguay	6.1	2011
Venezuela	50.0	2011

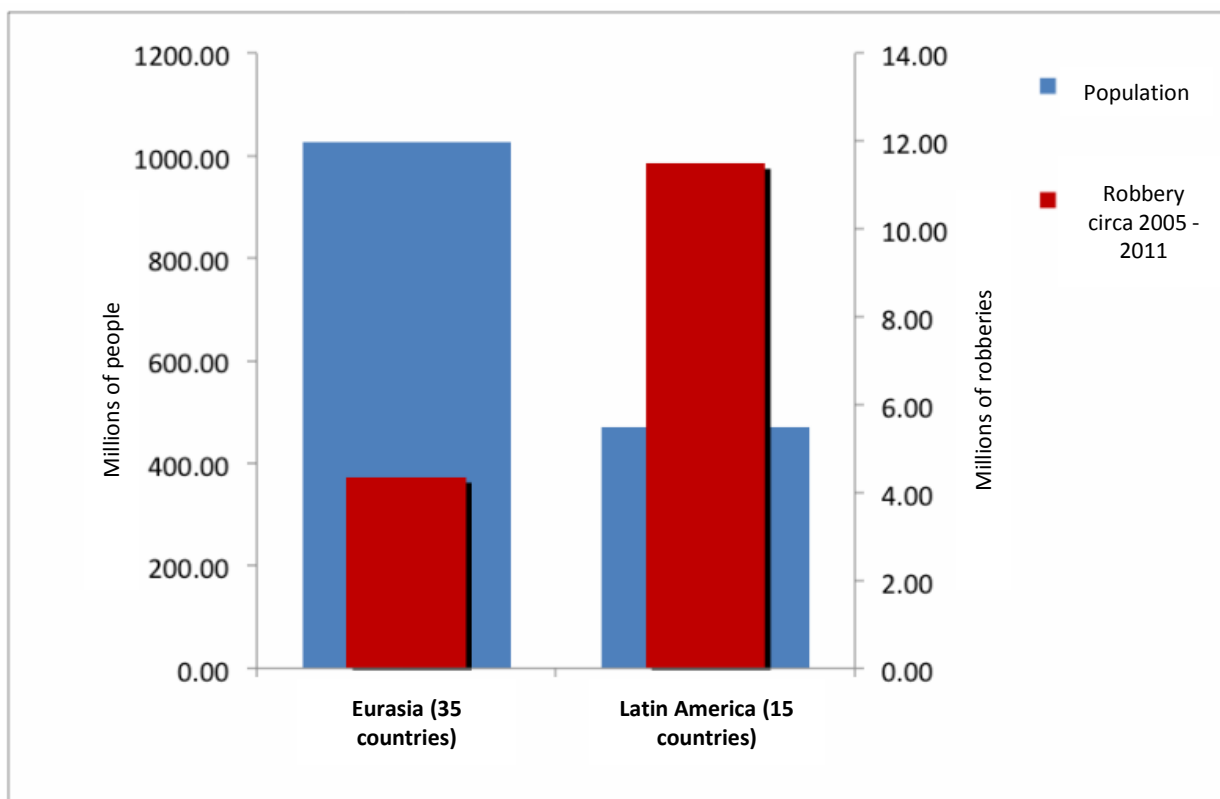
Source: Administrative official records compilados by the UNDP(2013).



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The number of robberies contrasts with other regions

Eurasia and Latin America, number of robberies, 2005 – 2011
(millions)

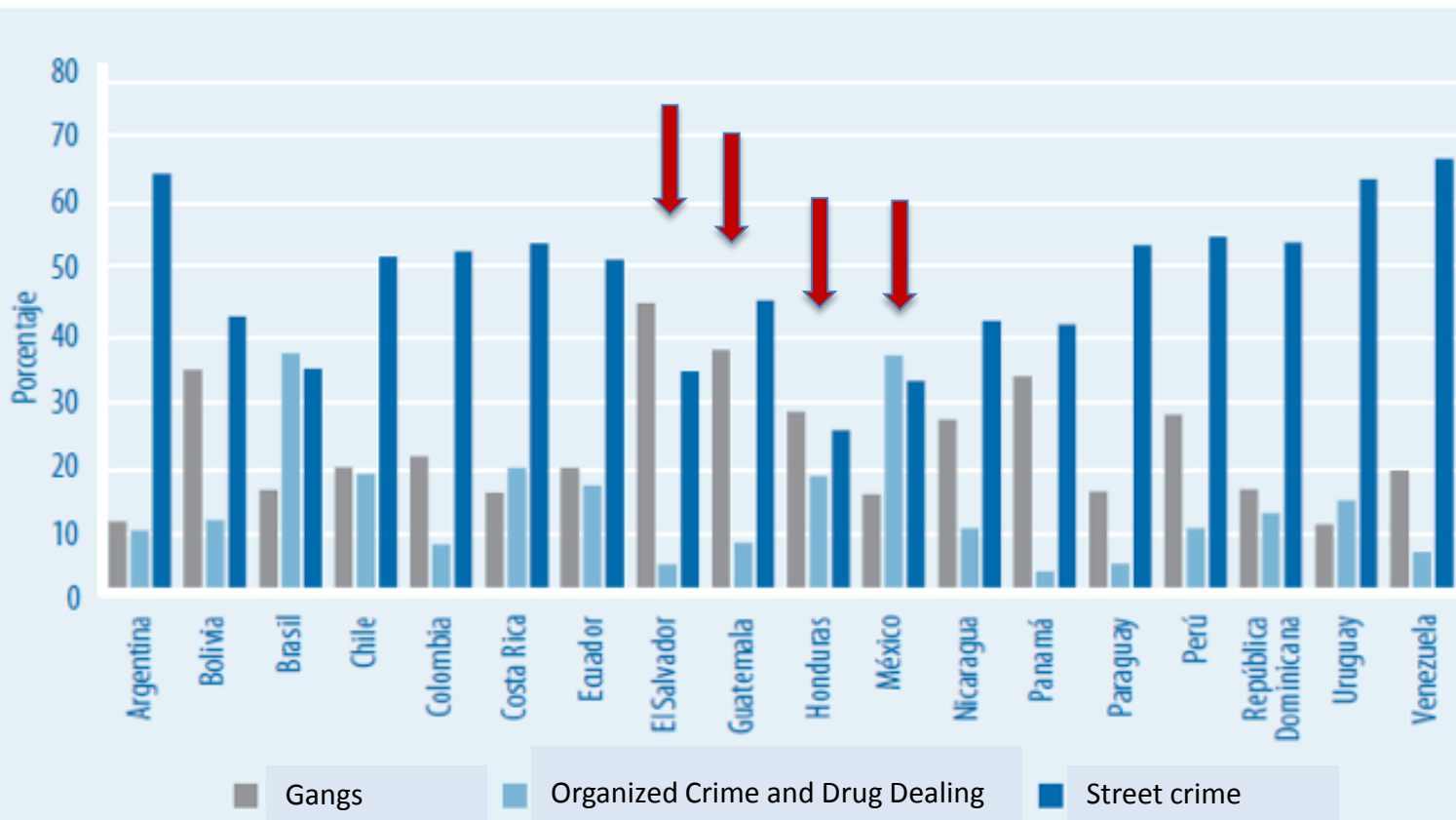


Source: 15 Latin America countries, administrative official records compiled by the UNDP (2013). The 35 countries include those mandated by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) with information from there Statistical Database.



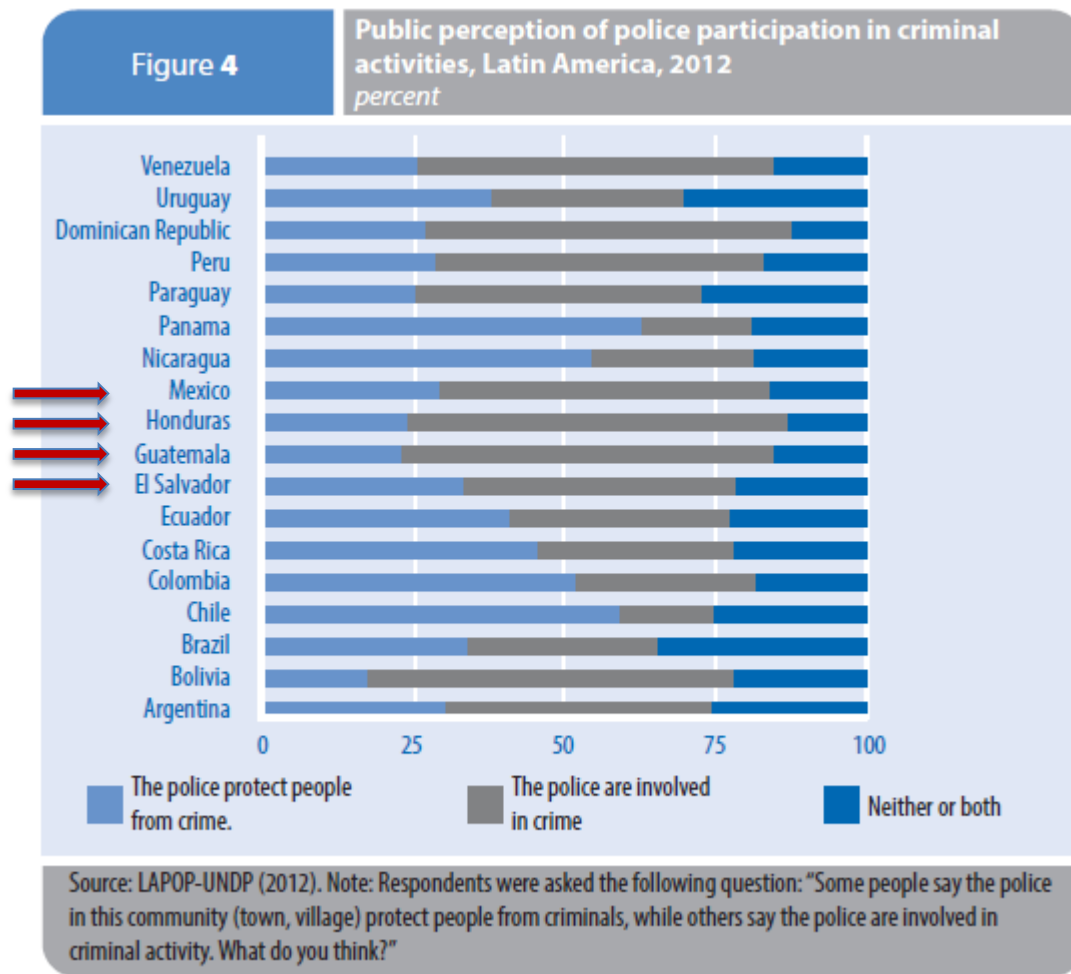
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Main security threats according to citizens, Latin America, 2012



Source: LAPOP / UNDP (2012)

Public perception of Police

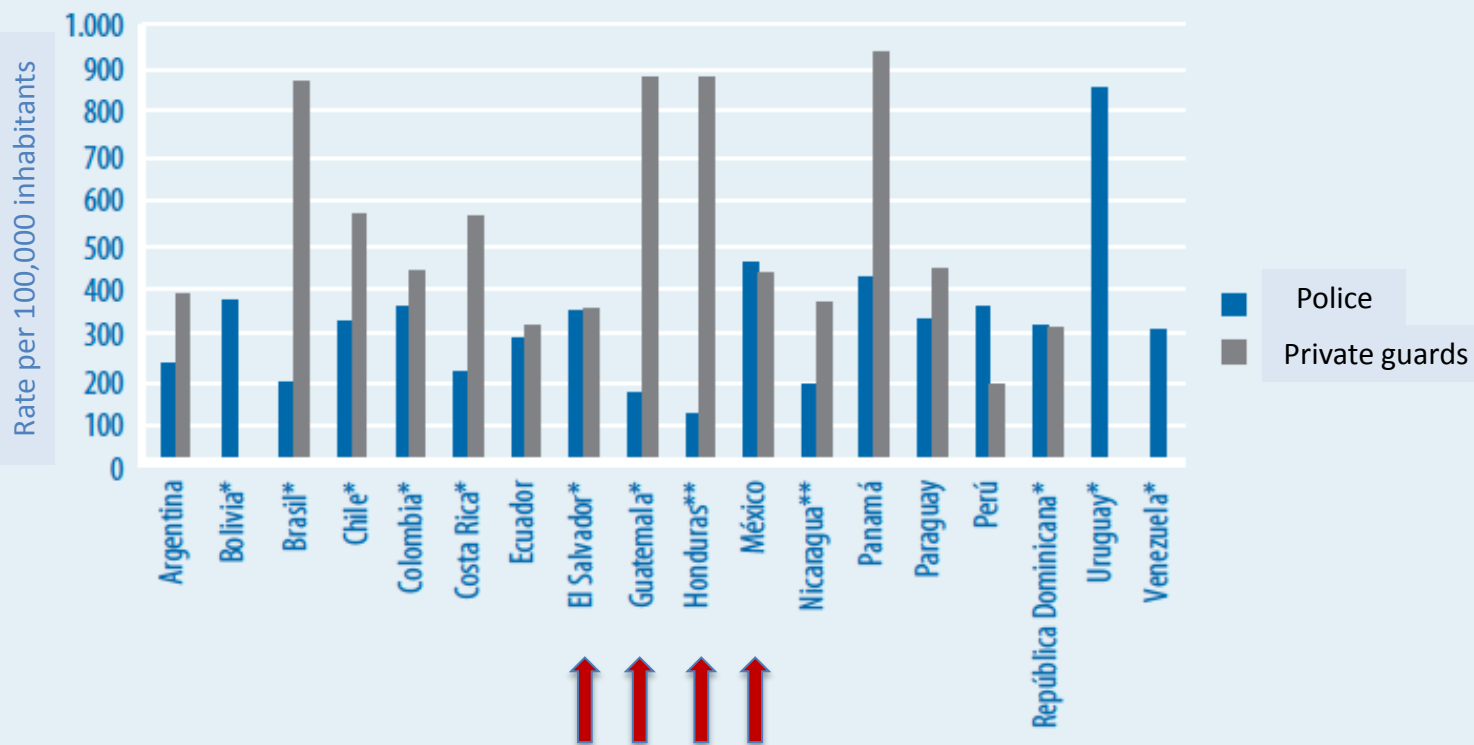




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Police and Private Security

Rate of private guards and police per 100,000 inhabitants, Latin America, last available year

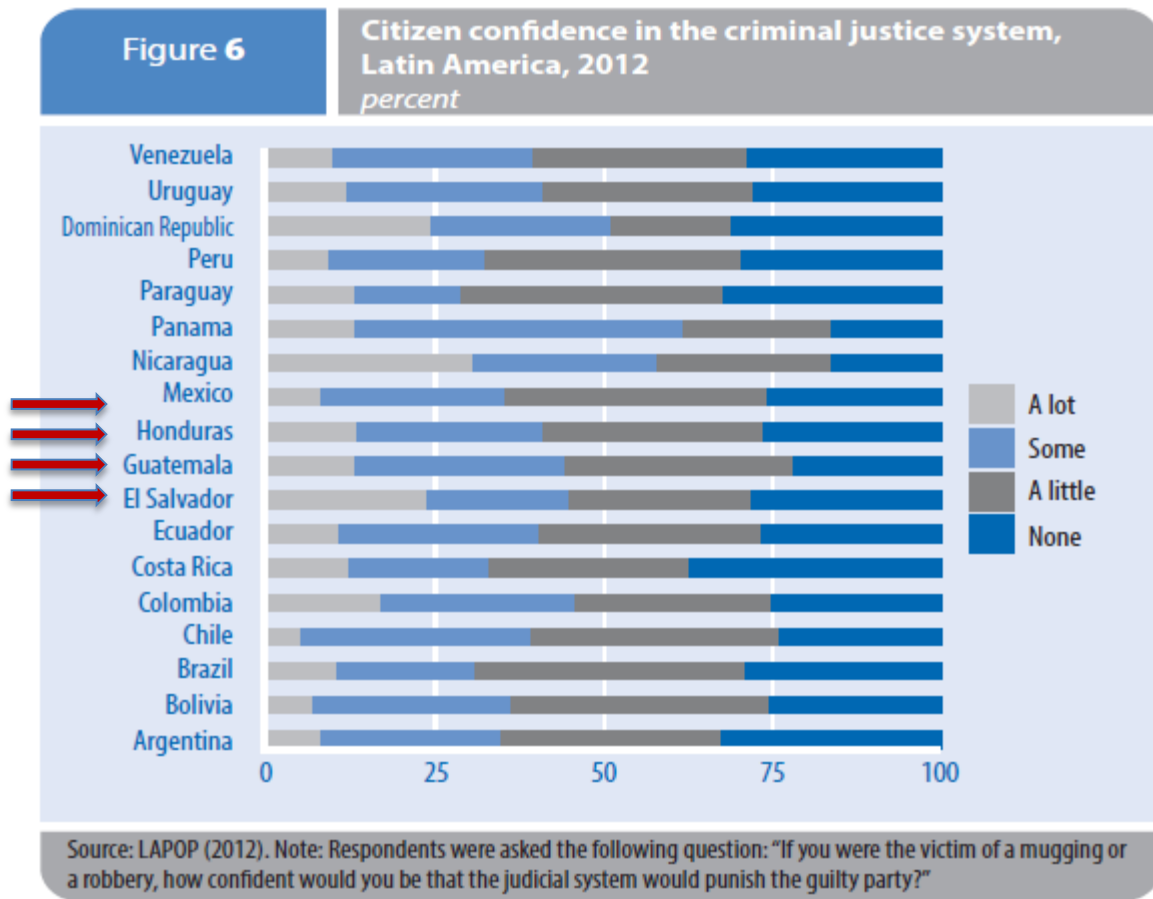


Source: OAS – Alertamerica (2012)

Note: Private Guards: the countries with ** Small Arms Survey (2013).

Police: the countries with * were taken from administrative records compiled by the UNDP (2013). For Mexico and Panama, the police data come from administrative records compiled by the UNDP (2013) and private guards from the Small Arms Survey

Public perception of the justice system

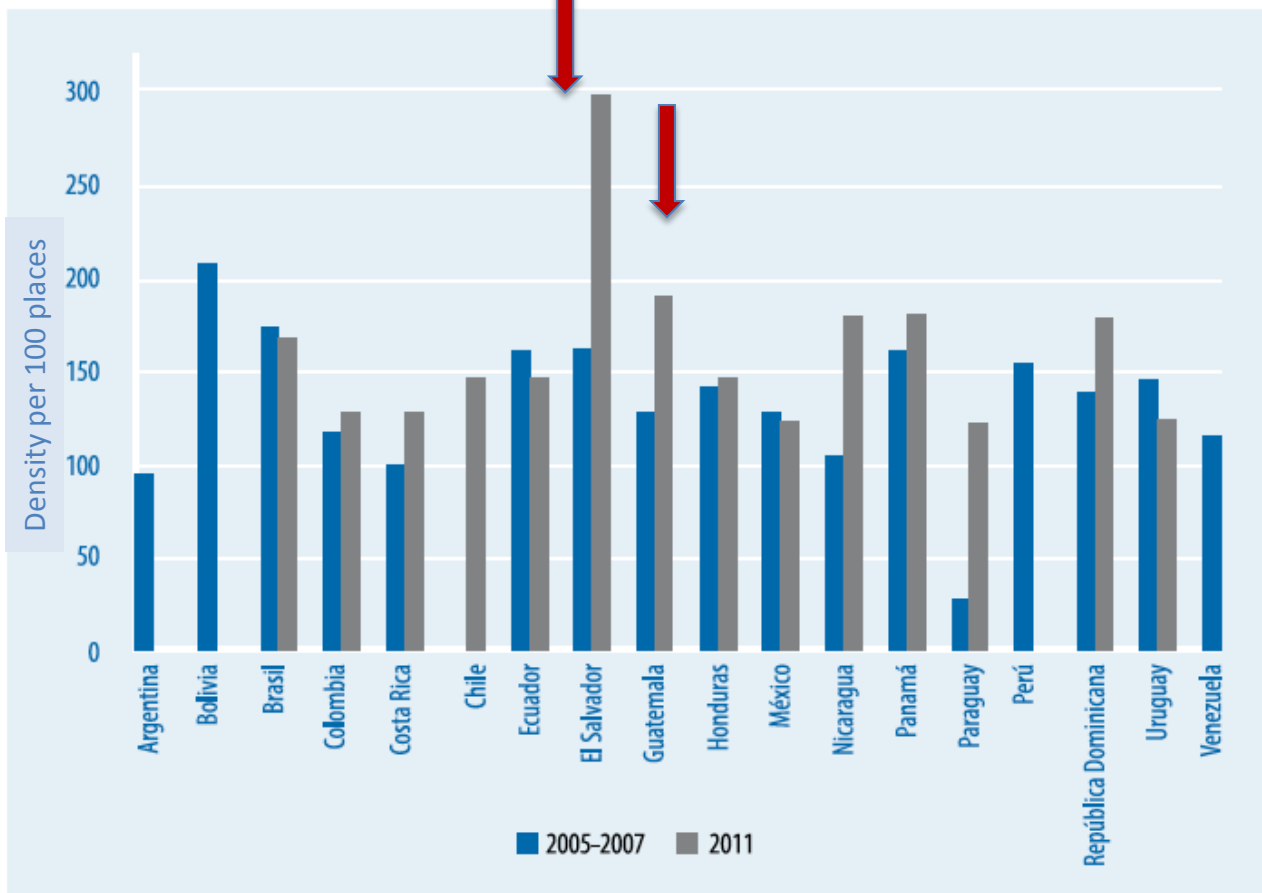




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Prisons

Penitentiary overcrowding, Latin America, 2005-2007 and 2011



Source: Carranza (2012, Table 1a). Note: No available data for Chile 2005-2007. No available data for Argentina, Bolivia and Peru for 2011.



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Education

Chart 8

Education levels attained by inmates, selected countries, 2013

	Argentina	Mexico	Peru	El Salvador	Brazil	Chile
Percentage not completing Elementary School	23.8	15.2	24.8	38.1	N/A	40.2
Percentage not completing 9 years of schooling ^a	- -	51.1	62.9	68.6	60.6	60.4
Percentage not completing 12 years of schooling	84.7	85.9	87.1	87.3	83.6	84.4
Level with the highest percentage of drop-outs	High School	High School	High School	Elementary School	Elementary School	Elementary School

Source: Comparative Study of Prison Population, UNDP (2013).

Note: N/A refers to unavailable data.

a. Does not apply to Argentina.



Al servicio
de las personas
y las naciones

LESSONS LEARNED

Iron fist policies have failed in the region

- Río de Janeiro, *Gratificação por Pecúnia* (1990s): resulted in an increase of police abuse levels and the highest murder rate in the state
- Guatemala, Honduras y El Salvador (2000s), iron fist (*mano dura*) or “extreme iron fist” (*super mano dura*) tactics against criminal gangs known as *Maras* intensified levels of violence in all three countries.



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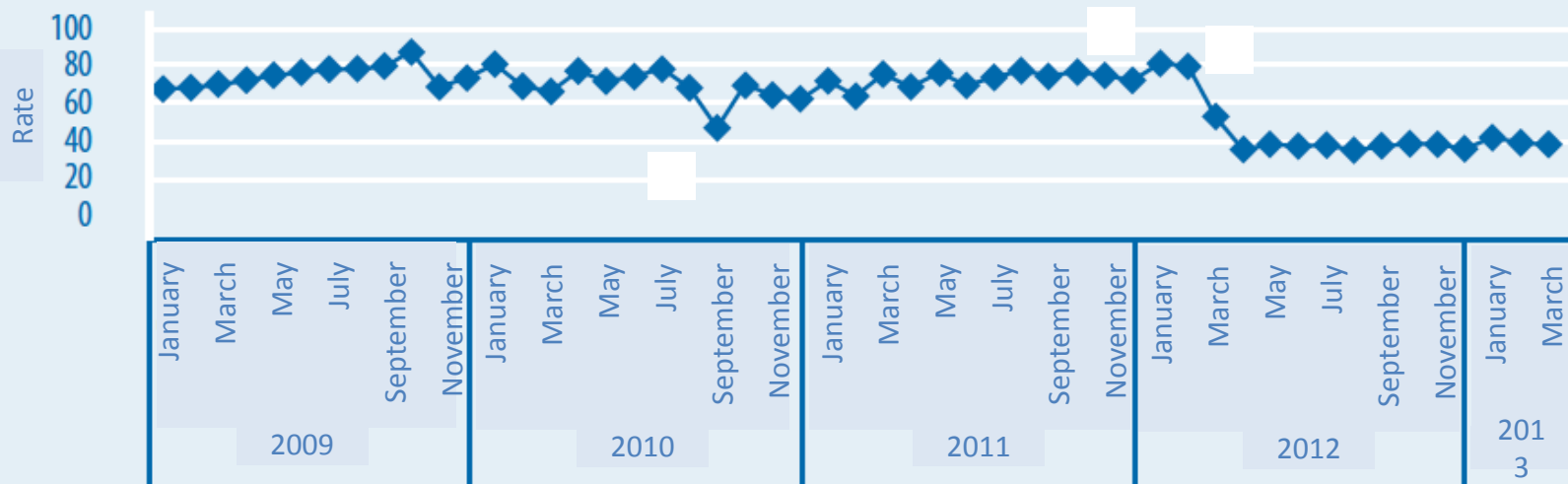
Innovative interventions demonstrate that insecurity has a solution

Interventions/ Case Studies

- *Fica Vivo* (Brazil)
- *Plan Cuadrante* (Colombia)
- *Barrio Seguro* (Dominican Republic)
- Street gangs' non-aggression pact, *maras* (El Salvador)
- *Todos Somos Juárez* (Mexico)

Non-aggression pact, street gangs *Maras* (El Salvador)

Monthly evolution of homicide rates per 100,000 inhabitants, El Salvador, 2009-2013



Source: Own elaboration based on data of the Policia Nacional Civil and Estimaciones y Proyecciones de Población of DIGESTYC

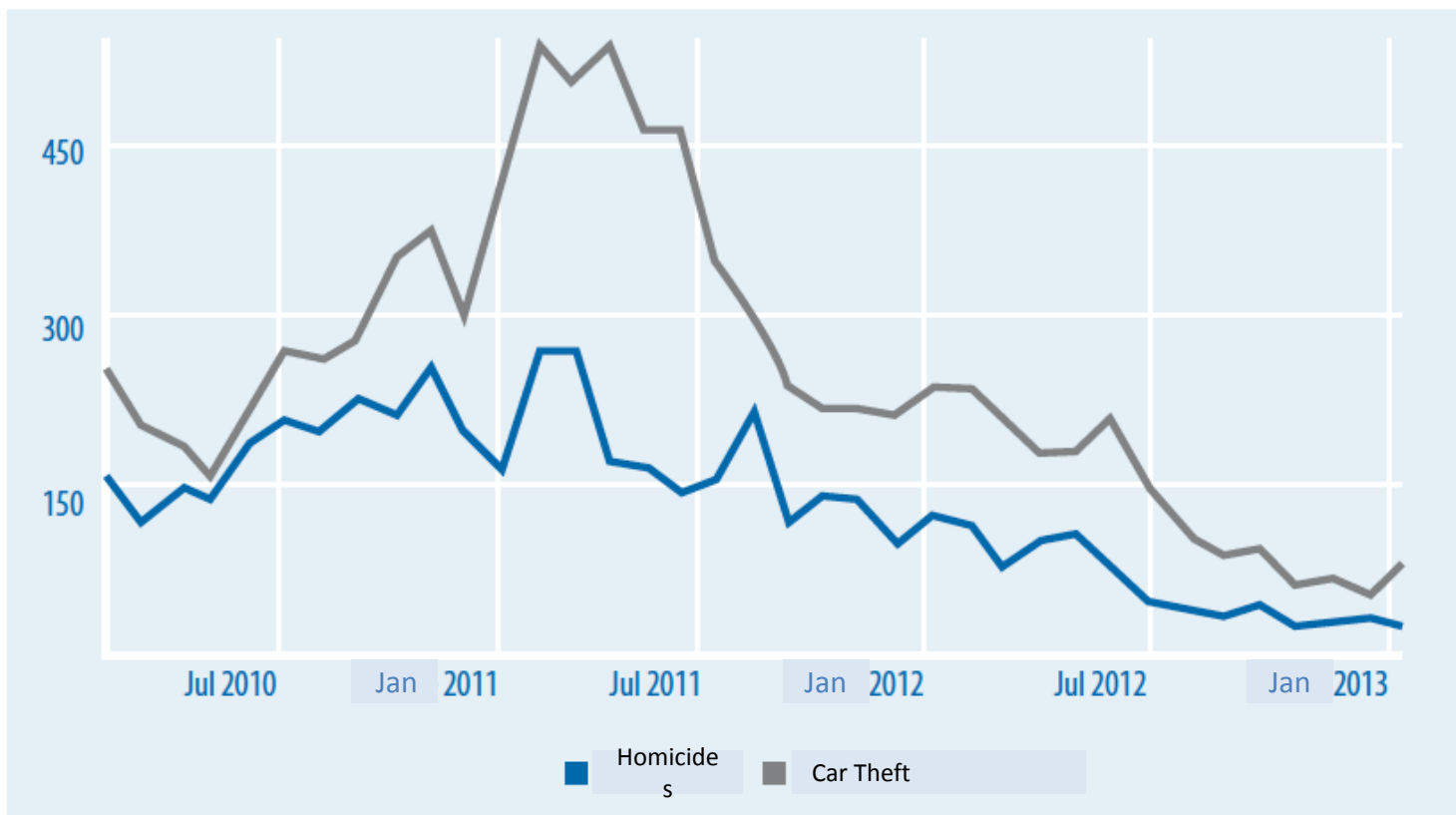


Todos Somos Juárez (Mexico)

Homicides: Almost 89% drop between October 2010 and October 2012

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Homicide and Car Theft Statistics, Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, 2010-2013



Source: Fiscalía General de Justicia – Zona Norte de Estado de Chihuahua.



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Common Elements

- Comprehensive intervention to respond to identified priority threats.
- Improve quality of information, crime data gathering using technology —i.e. geo-referential statistics
- Ensure sustained commitment from decision-makers
- Promote active citizen involvement



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International cooperation, a window of opportunity

- Latin America's emergence as a global actor. Greater capacity to cooperate with others.
- South-south cooperation: more symmetrical, a way to face common challenges; similar realities
- Decentralized cooperation: strengthening the local from international lessons perspectives.
- United States shift in cooperation from only drug trafficking to new areas.
- International organizations expanding citizen security programs.

Leslie E. Vélez,
Senior Protection
Officer, UNHCR
Washington

Children ON THE RUN

UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN LEAVING
CENTRAL AMERICA AND MEXICO AND THE
NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

Report Launch
12 March 2014

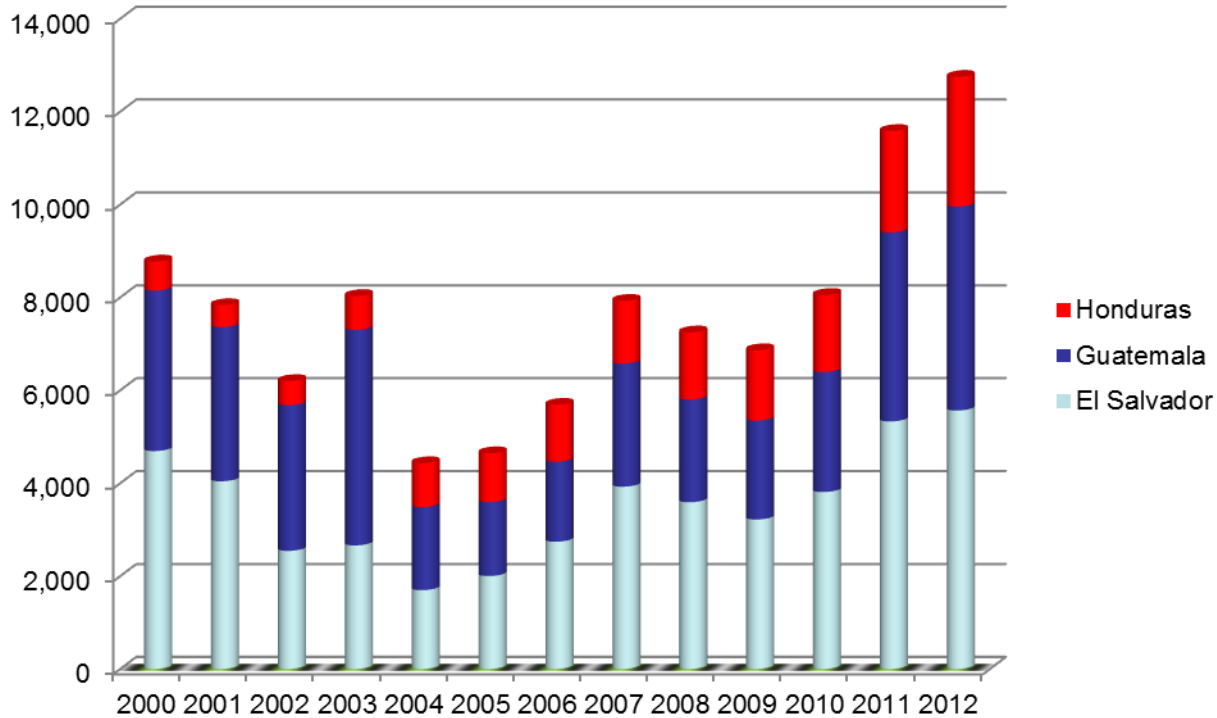


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OVERALL ASYLUM CLAIMS, 2000-2012

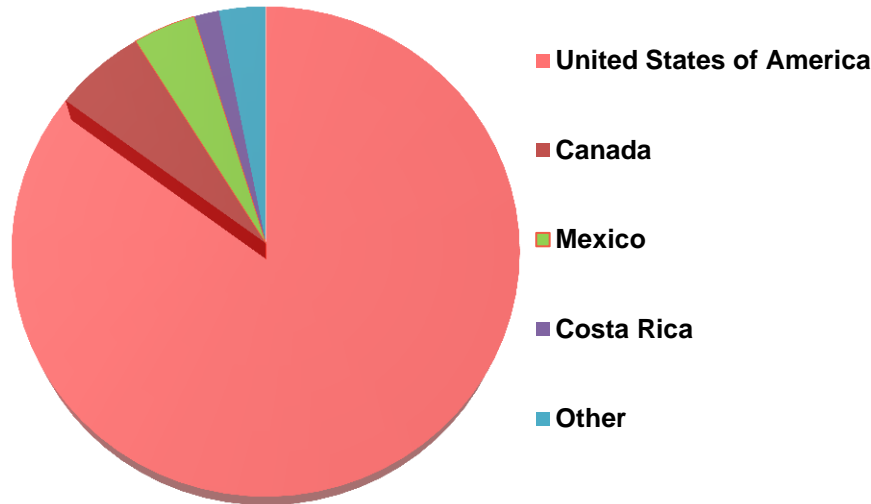
(From El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras)



Source: UNHCR Population Statistics

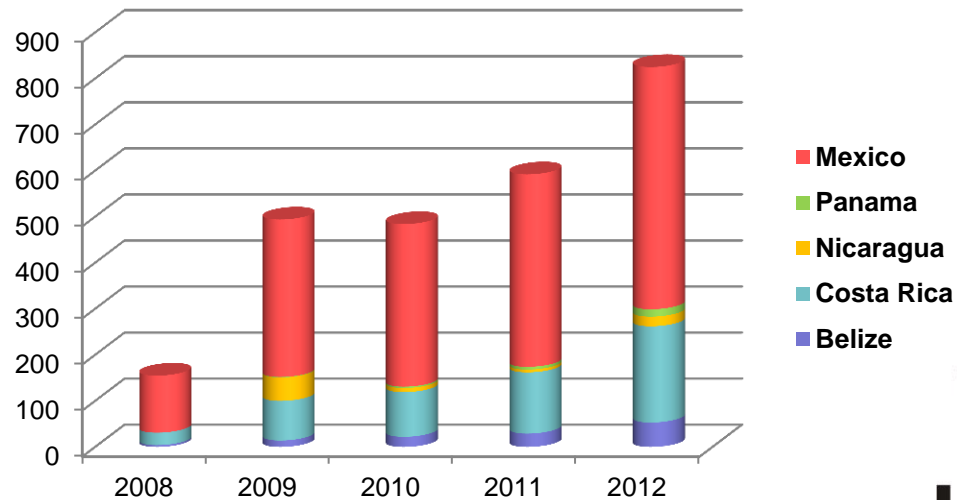


ASYLUM CLAIM TRENDS



Countries Where Asylum Applications Filed - 2012

Overall Asylum Applications to Other Central American Countries & Mexico
2008-2012
(432% Increase)



Source: UNHCR Population Statistics

A CHILD FOCUS

Unaccompanied children (UACs) arriving to the United States*

- **FY 2011:** 6,560 (66% from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico)
- **FY 2012:** 13,625 (95% from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico)
- **FY 2013:** 24,668 (97% from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico)
- **FY 2014:** 60,000 *Projected* (?% from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico)

* Referrals of UACs to the Office of Refugee Resettlement

Children
ON
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WHO ARE THE CHILDREN?

Children
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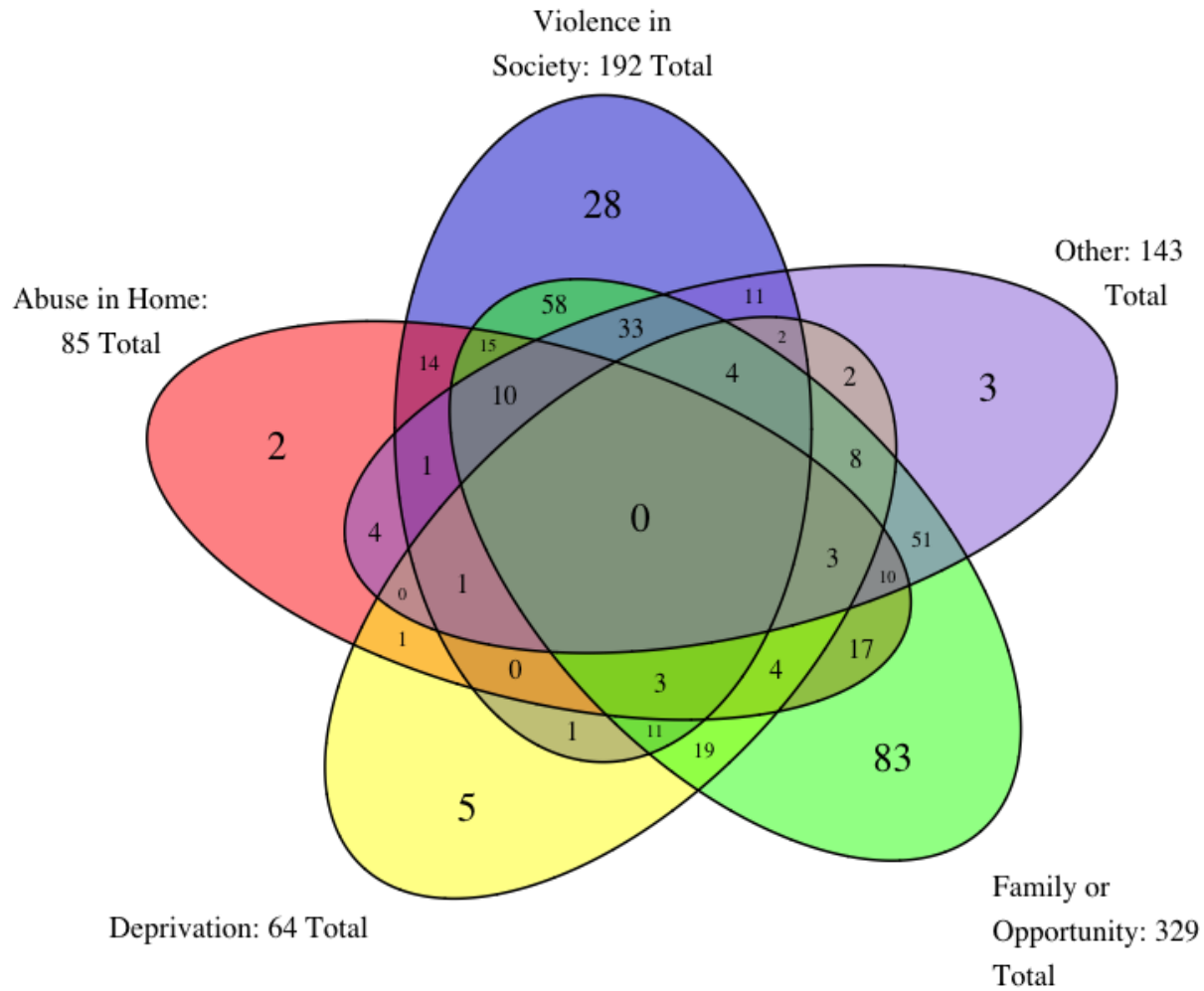
- **Country of Origin**

- El Salvador—104
- Guatemala—100
- Honduras—98
- México—102
- *Total—404*



- Ages: 12-17
- Gender distribution
- Entered the US during or after October 2011

Children's Reasons for Leaving Home



INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION RESPONSE

Recognize **Newly Emerging Forms of Violence** in Central America and the Emergence of **International Protection Needs**

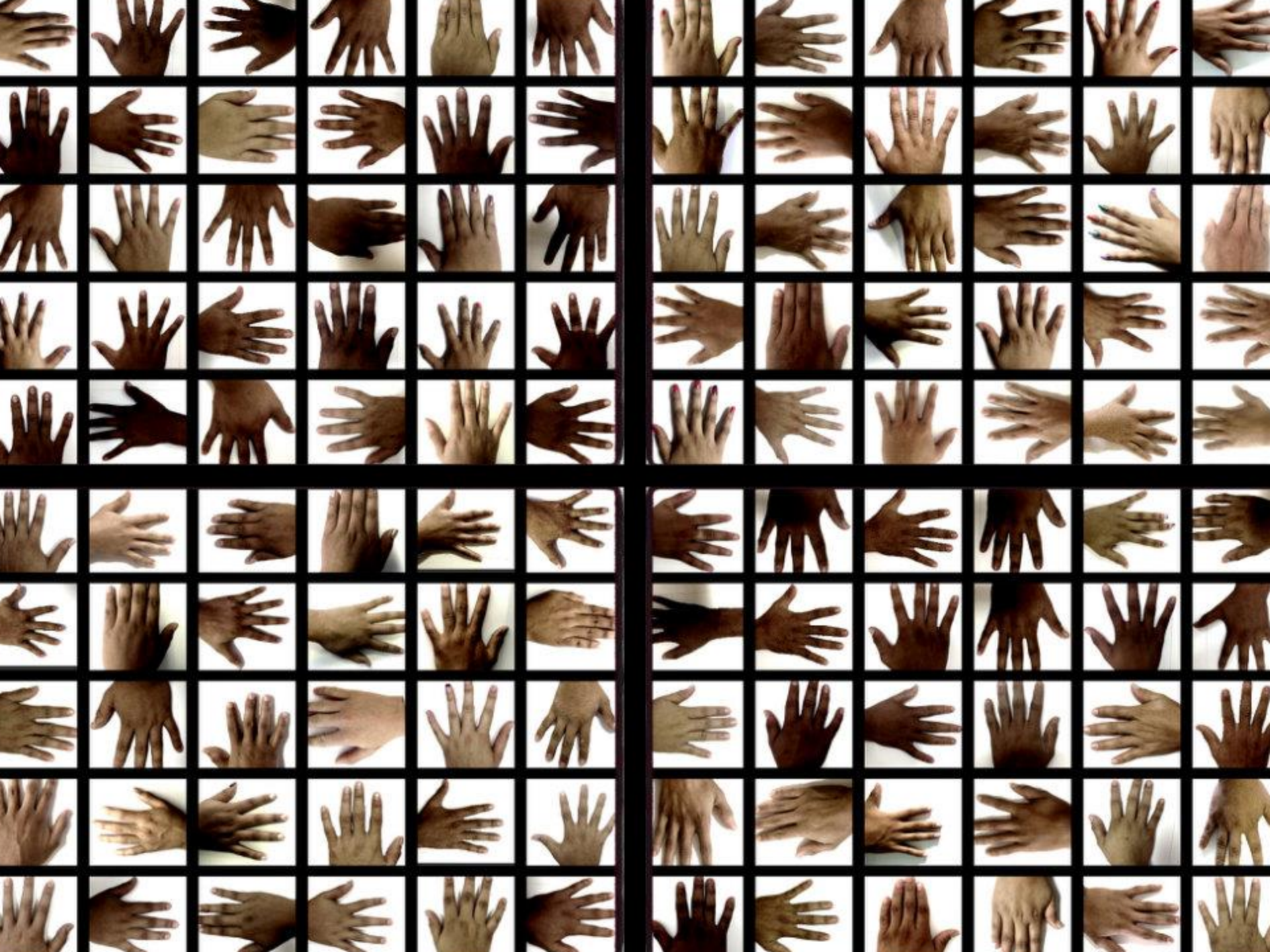


Address **Root Causes** of Displacement

Children
ON THE RUN

Strengthen and Harmonize Regional and National Frameworks for Ensuring International Protection







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