

STATUS REPORT ON THE RISING CHALLENGES IN THE AREA OF ASYLUM AND INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION IN THE RABAT PROCESS REGION

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International protection

- Fourth pillar of the Rabat Process

- Rome Declaration (2015-2017)

- “respect for access to international protection and the principle of non-refoulement of asylum seekers and refugees (...) also constitute a priority objective”*

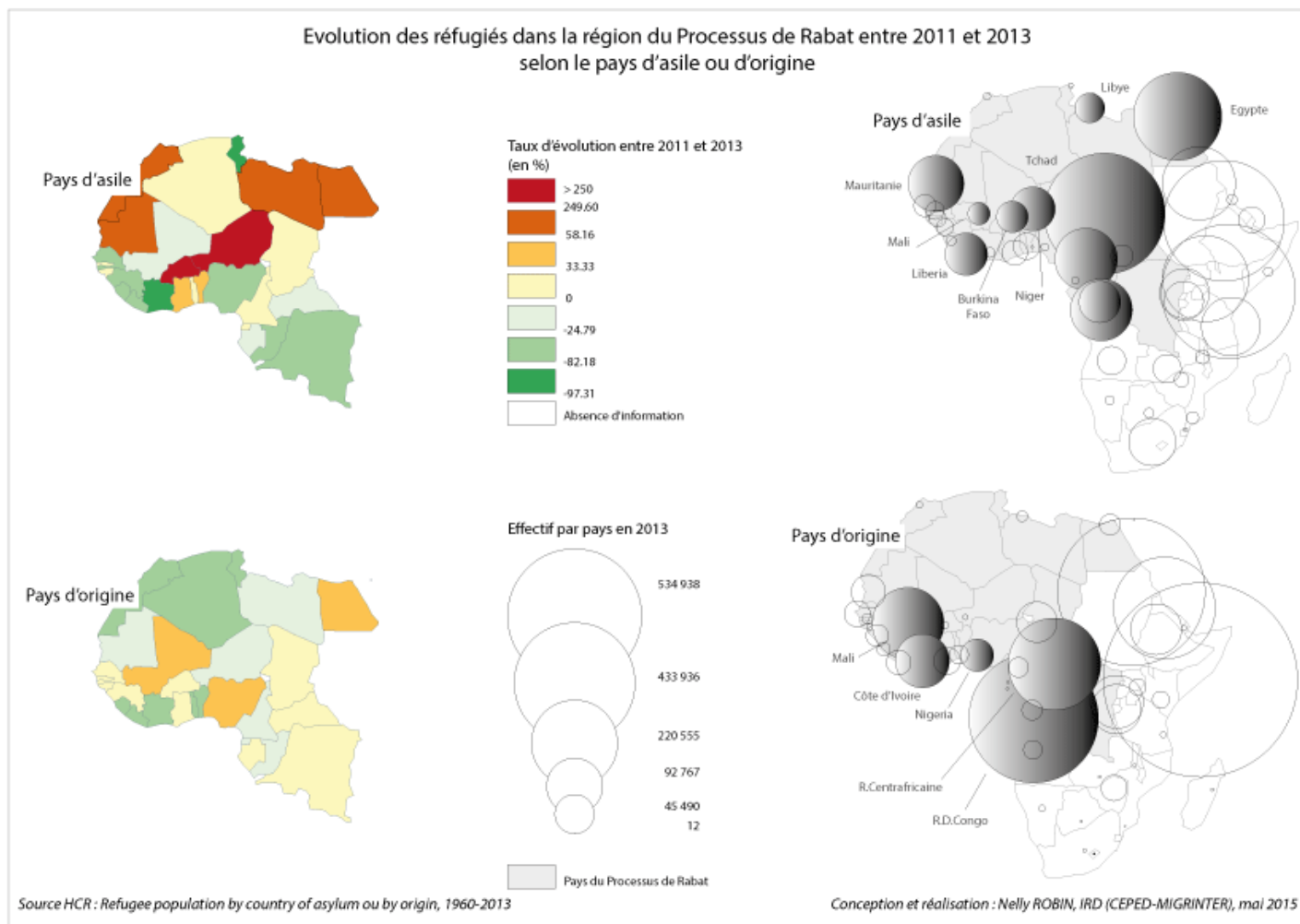
- + other vulnerable populations: unaccompanied minors, victims of human trafficking, smuggled migrants

- ⇒ What are the challenges and what are the solutions?

Refugees and displaced persons in the countries of the Rabat Process

- Developing countries: 86 % of global refugees (2013)
- In 2013, all countries of the Rabat Process received approximately 2,500,000 refugees
- A 43 % increase in asylum seekers in the EU (2013-2014)
- Five Rabat Process countries are among the top ten African receiving countries
 - Chad, at the crossroads of the Processes's conflict zones
 - Egypt, between the Middle East and East Africa

Evolution of refugees in the Rabat Process Region between 2011 and 2013



International, regional and national legal context

- The 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol
 - Common European Asylum System (CEAS, since 1999)
 - *Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union* (2000)
 - *Dublin Regulation* (2003): principle of examining asylum applications
 - Directives (2001-2005), including the “*qualification directive*”
 - OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa (1969)
- National legislations
 - EU Member States: adoption of a national legislation
 - African states: a more heterogeneous situation but reforms are underway

The contemporary causes of asylum are complex and multiple

- Continuing conflicts in several Western and Central African states
 - Central African crisis: unprecedented population flows
 - Malian crisis: voluntary returns slowed down by anew fighting in May 2014
 - Nigerian crisis: displacements due to Boko Haram violence
- The humanitarian consequences of the conflicts in Syria and Iraq on the countries of North Africa, in particular on Libya

General Issues

- The diversity and complexity of current displacements
- Increase in mixed flows
- Evolution of the international refugee protection regime in the light of the current geopolitical context
 - *The territoriality of asylum*
 - *The duration of asylum and the level of guaranteed protection*
- Finding new forms of international cooperation to deal with the protection crisis

Current solutions and solutions to be explored

- Three traditional sustainable solutions
 - *Voluntary return*
 - *Resettlement*
 - *Local integration*
- Other favourable solutions
 - *Protection of cross-border refugees*
 - *Mobility Partnerships for EU-African Countries*
 - *Relocation*

Progress to be achieved by strengthening

- *Asylum systems and national asylum legislation*, in compliance with international norms,
- *Protection issues within national poverty reduction strategies*,
- *The connections between international protection and development*, particularly within the framework of regional protection programmes,
- *Measures designed to rescue persons in distress at sea* (Search and Rescue - SAR),

And

- *Organising information campaigns* to raise awareness and inform the persons in question of the risks they face when taking irregular channels,
- *Developing legal alternatives to irregular migration.*

Thank you for your attention