

# DISAPPEARANCES THROUGH ORGANIZED CRIME



Insights from the 2020 Resilience Fund Fellowship program on *how organized crime engenders disappearances in communities across the world and how the communities respond to them* in the absence of effective state mechanisms.

## KEY

- Direct victim
- Context
- Perpetrator
- Means
- Outcome
- Community Challenges
- Community Resilience

### PHILIPPINES

MANILA

- Youth, Families
- Drug trafficking & over-militarization of public security
- State sponsored groups and organized criminal groups, vigilantism
- Kidnapping; Abduction
- Torture, extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances
- State Impunity, undocumented killings, lack of social support to victims' families, fake news, harassment and death threats to citizens
- Performance art and visual storytelling for advocacy and awareness against extrajudicial killings and false narratives. Documentation/record of the people killed

### COLOMBIA

CAÑÓN DEL RIO CAUCA  
ANTIOQUÍA

- Peasants, land workers, river workers, ancestral miners and community leaders, families
- Armed conflict, drug trafficking, illicit mining, hydroelectric projects
- State officials, state-sponsored paramilitary groups, organized criminal groups, private companies
- Kidnapping, Abduction
- Torture, extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances, disappearance of corpses, loots of corpses
- State impunity, undocumented killings, drowning of unidentified bodies, lack of social support to victims' families; intimidation
- Advocacy, community building, open dialogue with public officials, awareness campaigns

### MEXICO

CULIACAN

- Men and youth, families
- Drug trafficking
- State officials and drug cartels
- Kidnapping, abduction
- Torture, extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances
- Impunity, abandonment of the State, corruption, violence and insecurity
- Never stop the search, raise awareness, organize and train the community to search

### VENEZUELA

STATE OF BOLIVAR

- Internal migrants and indigenous communities, families
- State mining through private companies
- State agents, paramilitary groups and organized crime groups
- Kidnapping, abduction
- Human trafficking and enforced disappearances
- Political persecution, lack of job opportunities, intimidation of reporters; corruption
- Investigative journalism, highlighting the disappeared, raising awareness of the issue

### ROMANIA

BUCHAREST

- Vulnerable women and children, families
- Poverty, migration
- Organized criminal groups, local vulnerable persons turned perpetrators
- Kidnapping, abduction, job offer, lover boy technique
- Sexual exploitation, smuggling and trafficking
- Normalization of disappearances, delayed action in responding to disappearances
- Toolkits for state and civilians that enable faster assessment of linking missing persons to human trafficking; Research on transnational migratory patterns of Romanians

### KENYA

NAIROBI

- Refugees, vulnerable women and children, families
- Human Trafficking, armed conflict, migration
- Organized criminal groups
- Kidnapping, abduction
- Smuggling and trafficking
- Shelters for victims, tracing victims to home countries, lack of awareness of human trafficking
- Investigative journalism, advocacy and awareness of human trafficking

### CAMBODIA

PHNOM PENH

- Vulnerable women and children, youth, families
- Migration, labour exploitation
- Organized criminal groups including private companies
- Kidnapping, abduction
- Smuggling and trafficking
- Lack of victim protection in destination countries, poverty and unemployment
- Helpline for trafficked victims, counseling services, youth awareness campaigns, accessible toolkits against human trafficking and capacity-building workshops for the youth

### NIGER

NIAMEY

- Vulnerable migrants
- Migration
- Organized criminal groups
- Forced population displacement, abandonment
- Smuggling and trafficking
- Poverty, desert terrain and access to water, terrorism
- Multi stakeholder dialogues and advocacy to impact change, awareness campaigns on unsafe migration

### DRC

RUBAYA

- Vulnerable women and girls, families
- Mining, human trafficking
- Armed groups
- Kidnapping, abduction
- Sexual crimes, forced labour and modern slavery, enforced disappearances
- Impunity, mining zone, labour exploitation, forced marriage, slavery
- Survivor driven solutions for trafficked victims, vocational training for employment

## ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE cumulative elements



Refusal on disclosure the information on the fate or whereabouts



Deprivation of liberty



State involvement (at least by acquiescence)



Consequences: Placement of the person outside the protection of the law



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