



International, Impartial and الآلية الدولية
Independent Mechanism المحايدة والمستقلة
to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious
Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011

IIIM Syria

Report

on

2023

results



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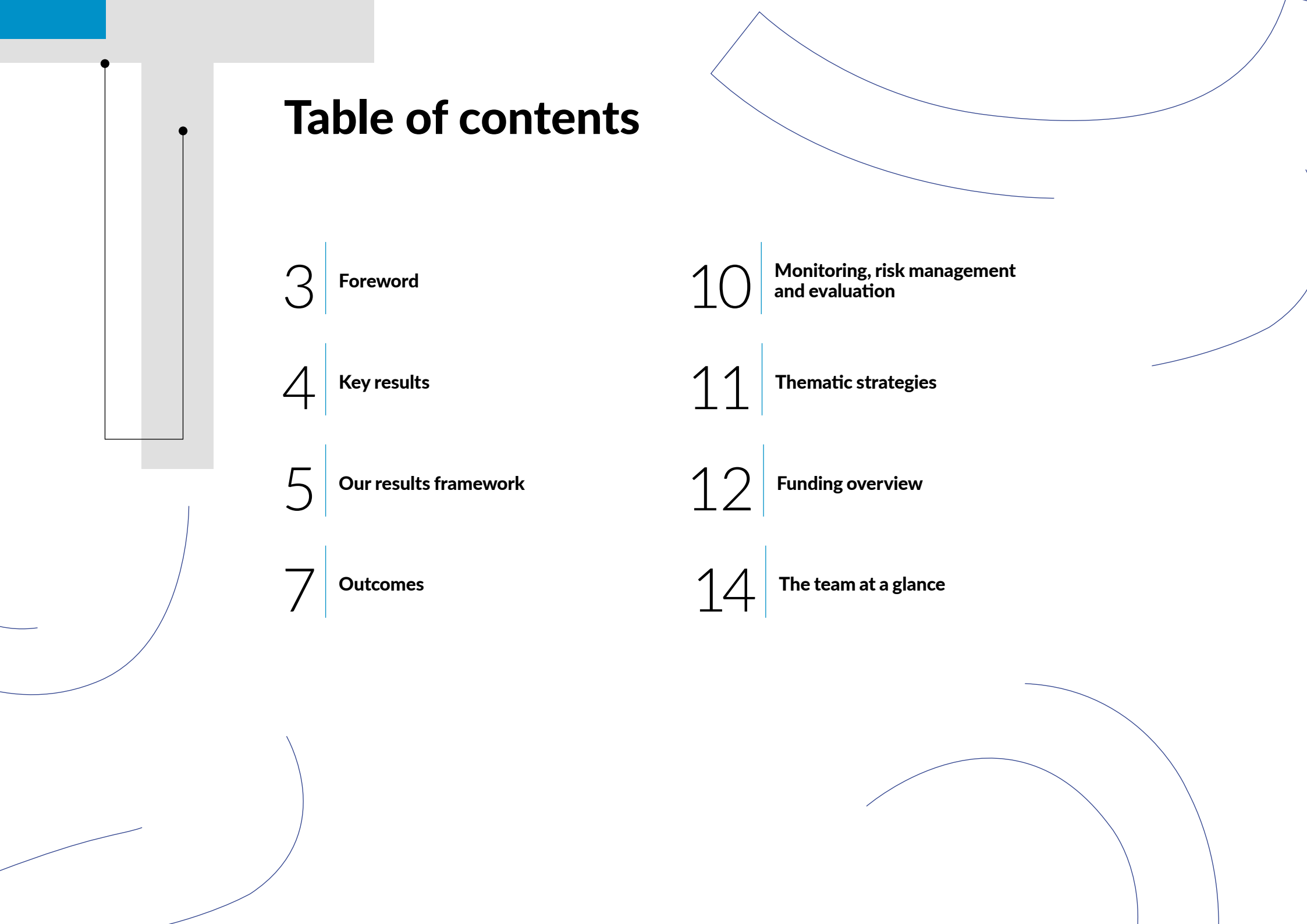
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Foreword

I am pleased to share with you this report on the results of the Mechanism's work in 2023. With this new tool, the Mechanism demonstrates its commitment to results-based management and showcases the pivotal role and impact of our work. The report builds upon our [Strategic Plan 2023-25](#) and shows the progress we have achieved in relation to the objectives and targets therein.

In 2023, our support to the jurisdictions investigating atrocity crimes in Syria contributed to major wins for justice and accountability. These include cases which led to the successful conviction and life sentencing of perpetrators for war crimes and murder in Germany and the conviction of a perpetrator of war crimes in Sweden. These are just two examples of the many tangible outcomes of our work. And yet it takes months, often years of investigation to get to that point.

The most compelling evidence of our impact is the significant increase in requests for assistance from jurisdictions received last year. In 2023, we received a total of 87 requests, compared to only 13 in 2018, our initial year of operation. In just the first four months of 2024, we have already received 45 new requests, a pattern which shows no sign of abating.

This continuous rise in demand for our support is welcome, as it demonstrates an interest and reliance by jurisdictions on our products and expertise. More importantly, it sends a strong message to all, in Syria and beyond, that atrocity crimes are successfully prosecuted, and perpetrators sentenced. This message is all the more important and necessary in the global context where we see such crimes on the rise.

Yet, despite this positive news for the fight against impunity, the picture for the Mechanism is less so: for the first time since our establishment, we are compelled to plan sizable cuts in our activities due to insufficient funding. The financial resources made available to us are not keeping pace with the significant increase in demands for our services. Without renewed commitments from our donors, we will have no choice but to turn down requests for our assistance.

I hope that this report will strengthen your conviction that the Mechanism has now become an established and instrumental actor in the struggle for accountability in Syria, a role which my successor Robert Petit will continue to develop further.

We count on your support!



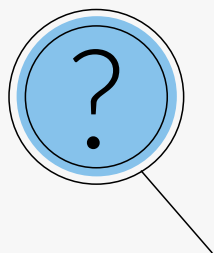

Catherine Marchi-Uhel
 Head of the IIIM
 up until April 2024




Robert Petit
 Head of the IIIM
 from May 2024

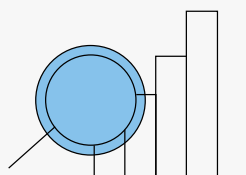
Key results

FACILITATING JUSTICE



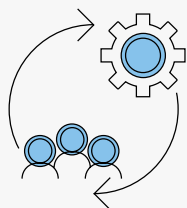
3

active lines of inquiry



42

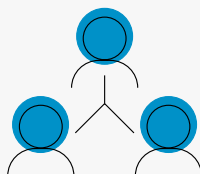
analytical products shared
with competent jurisdictions
in support of judicial
proceedings



26

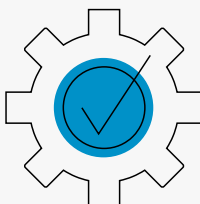
events with Syrian victims/
survivors

SHARING ACTIVITIES



91

cooperation frameworks



263

requests for assistance
processed and closed



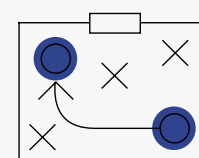
326

requests for assistance
(RFAs) received from

16

competent jurisdictions

THEMATIC STRATEGIES

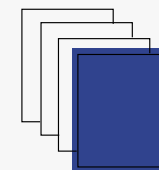


Victim/survivor-centred
approach

3

associated thematic strategies

COLLECTING INFORMATION AND EVIDENCE



120

collection activities launched
in 2023

Our results framework

GOAL:
By the end of 2025, the IIIM will be recognized by victims/survivors of core international crimes committed in Syria as a crucial entity supporting and promoting current and future accountability efforts.

OUTCOMES

Competent Jurisdictions with Defined Investigation Scopes **usefully assisted in investigation and prosecution**

Competent Jurisdictions that may be Seized of the Entire Syrian Situation **enabled to efficiently and effectively determine priorities and conduct investigations and prosecutions**

Syrian Civil Society Organizations **perceive increased promotion and advocacy for justice outcomes**

OUTPUTS

Thematic strategies for inclusive justice addressing gender, children and youth, and broader justice objectives

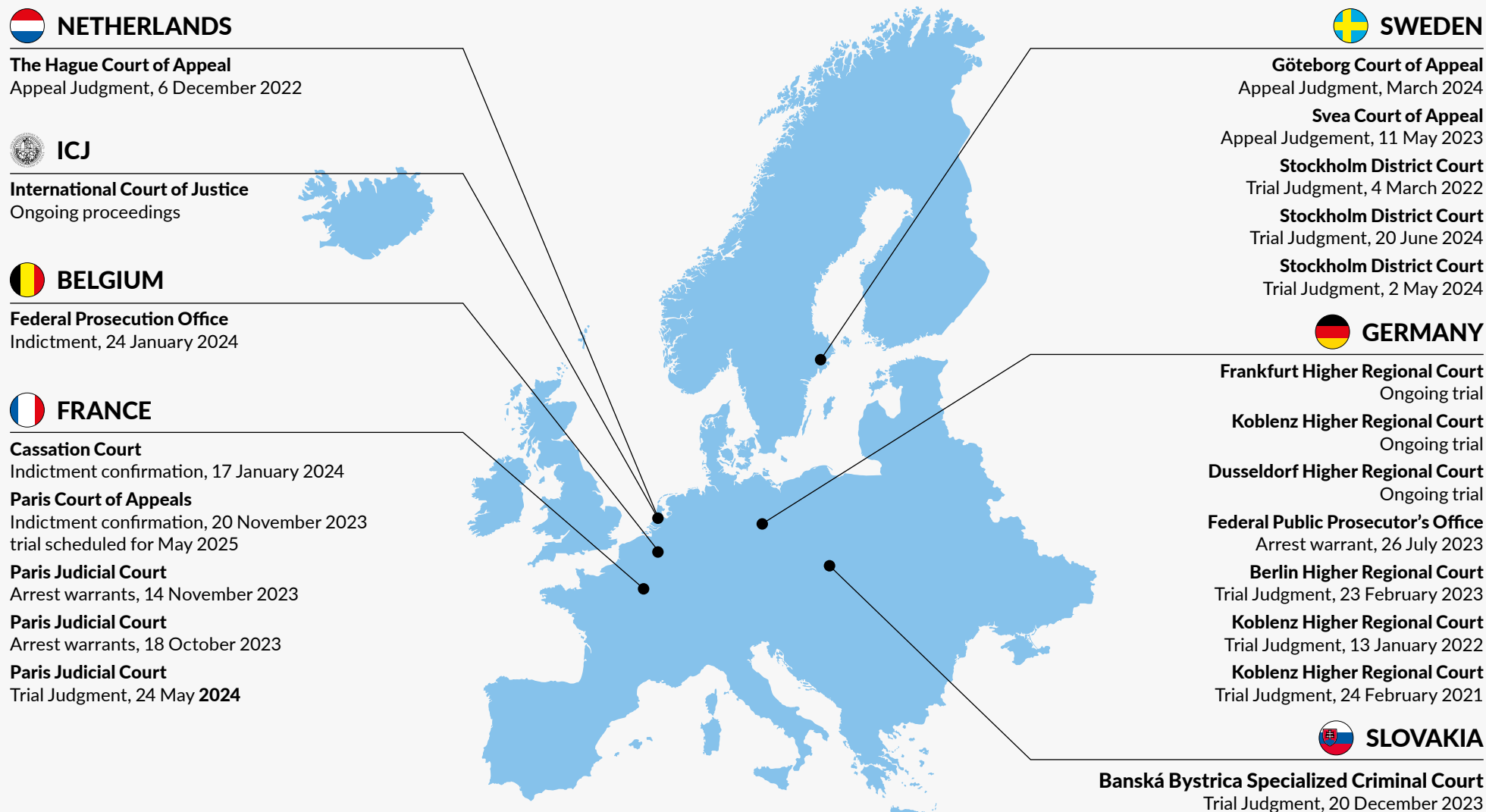
The Volume of High-Quality Sharing Packages Maximized

Impactful Analytic Products Provided

High-Value Investigatory Services Delivered

Future Accountability for Victims/ Survivors and Civil Society Communicated Effectively and Promoted

Publicly disclosed contributions to justice processes

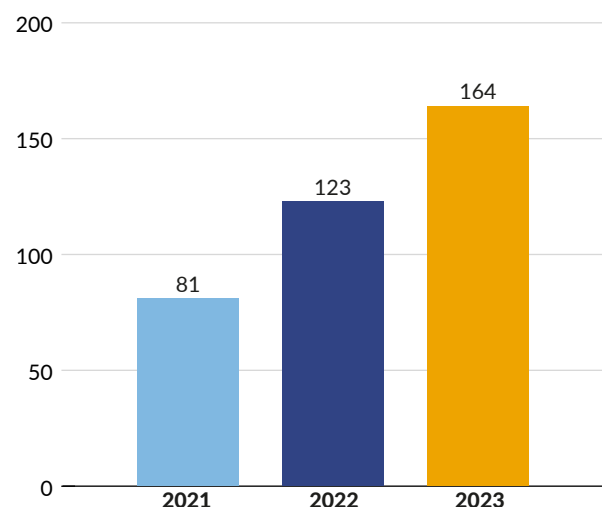


Outcome 1

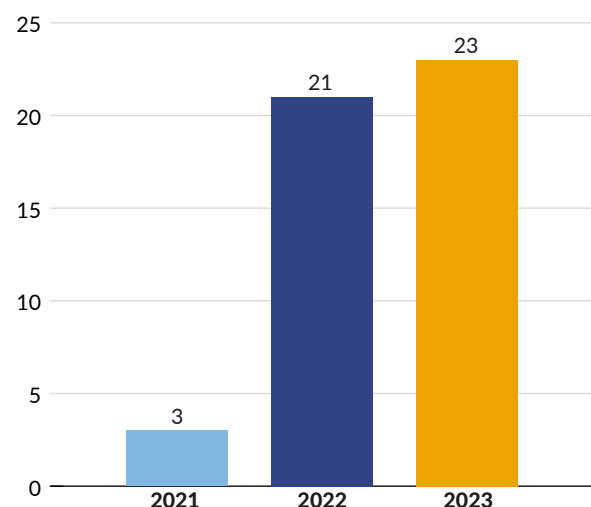
EFFECTIVELY SUPPORT COMPETENT JURISDICTIONS INVESTIGATING OR PROSECUTING ATROCITY CRIMES IN SYRIA

IIIM provides competent jurisdictions¹ with timely information, analysis, services and evidence that is useful to their investigations, prosecutions, and other judicial proceedings both proactively and through expeditiously responding to requests for assistance.

- Performance measure: number of distinct investigations enhanced with information provided by the Mechanism (cumulative)



- Performance measure: number of information and evidence packages proactively made available to competent jurisdictions



¹ The jurisdictions that the IIIM can share information with include courts and tribunals, including law enforcement agencies, investigative authorities, prosecutorial authorities, and judges that:

- Have jurisdiction to investigate, prosecute and try the crimes covered by the IIIM's mandate.
- Respect international human rights laws and standards.
- Would not apply the death penalty for the offences being considered.

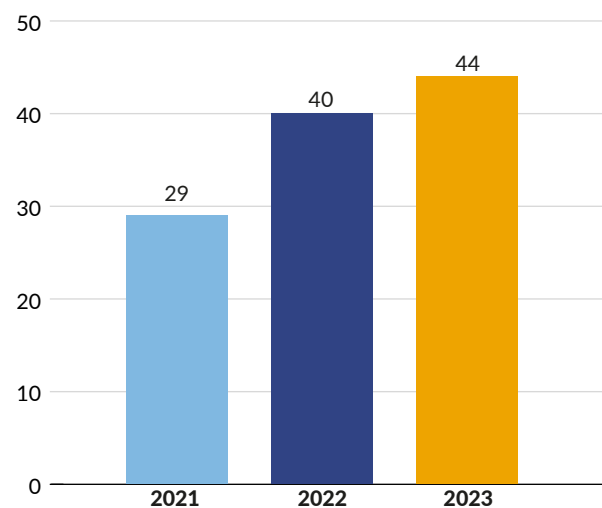
IIIM can also assist with non-criminal law judicial proceedings that concern liability for crimes in Syria falling under the IIIM's mandate in jurisdictions, in line with the IIIM's terms of reference.

Outcome 2

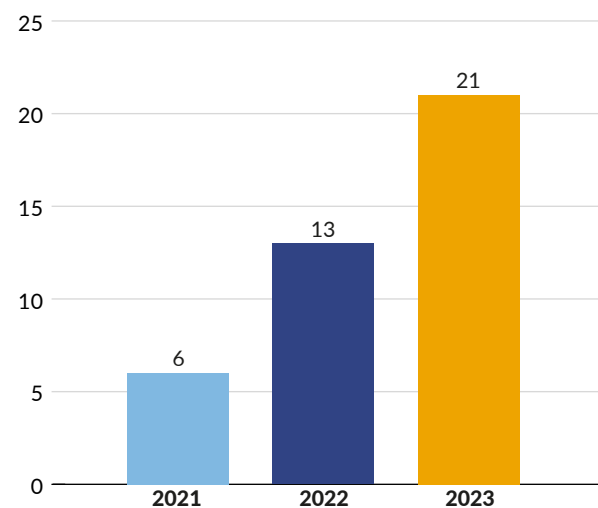
EFFECTIVELY PREPARE TO SUPPORT A FUTURE JURISDICTION SEIZED OF THE ENTIRE SYRIAN SITUATION

IIIM collects, preserves and consolidates high value information and evidence, and produces comprehensive, advanced analysis that could assist a future jurisdiction seized of the entire Syrian situation.

- Performance measure: cumulative totals of shareable analytical products



- Performance measure: investigation-related missions to identify and meet sources and potential witnesses, to interview witnesses and/or to collect evidence for the Mechanism's repository of information and evidence

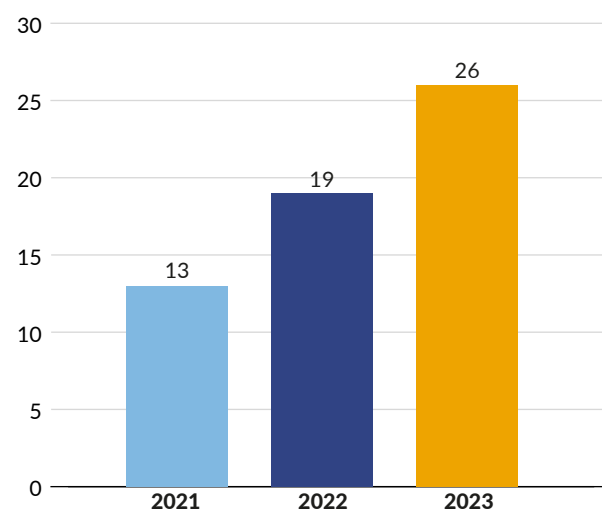


Outcome 3

IMPROVE THE IMPACT AND INTEGRATION OF COMMUNICATION WITH VICTIMS, SURVIVORS AND SYRIAN CIVIL SOCIETY

IIIM preserves information important to victims/survivors, engages in two-way communication and collaboration, promotes justice outcomes, and advocates for comprehensive accountability.

- Performance measure: number of events with victims and survivors (annual)



- Performance measure: number of cooperation frameworks





Monitoring, risk management and evaluation

MONITORING

The strategic plan framework includes quarterly strategic review meetings where progress on the objectives is discussed. This forum has been used in 2023 to better align resources with priorities. Also, in 2023 the IIIM implemented a software monitoring tool to facilitate data collection analysis and reporting.

RISK MANAGEMENT

In 2023, the IIIM completed its first Enterprise Risk Management process as guided by the UN Secretariat's Policy Framework. The process identified six medium risks and two high risks recorded in the IIIM risk register. The Local Risk Management Working Group meets on a quarterly basis to advance the risk treatment plan.

EVALUATION

The IIIM commissioned the first independent evaluation of its work from establishment in 2016 through 2022. The evaluation identified 10 recommendations, which received a management response and a corresponding implementation plan. The evaluation highlighted the impact achieved by the IIIM in its first seven years, describing it as “highly relevant and coherent” with a “well established client orientation”.

It further noted that

The IIIM successfully established itself as a credible partner ... Thanks to the high quality and timeliness of its work, mores suspects have been brought to justice.

Thematic strategies



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE 2022 EVALUATION OF THE IIIM GENDER STRATEGY

“The Gender Strategy and Implementation Plan has been highly relevant to the integration of gender into the IIIM’s core activities ... Significant progress towards the achievement of planned results include:

- The development of IIIM section actions plans
- Integrating gender analysis into analytical products
- Integrating gender into support provided to national jurisdictions
- Integrating a gender analysis into IIIM guidance documents
- Development of a common understanding of gender concepts”

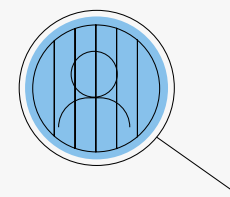


IMPLEMENTATION RATE (FULL OR PARTIAL) OF GENDER STRATEGY ACTION PLANS



WRITTEN GUIDANCE ON VICTIM AND SURVIVOR CENTERED APPROACH

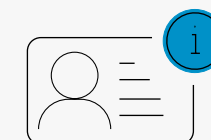
- Written guidance on Gender
- Written guidance on broader justice objectives: Missing Persons
- Written guidance on Children & youth



Gender analysis report on the Syrian detention system exploring detention-related crimes from a gender perspective



Peer-to-peer engagement with a competent jurisdiction on trauma-centered interviewing techniques and procedures



Tagging information and evidence regarding missing persons in Syria

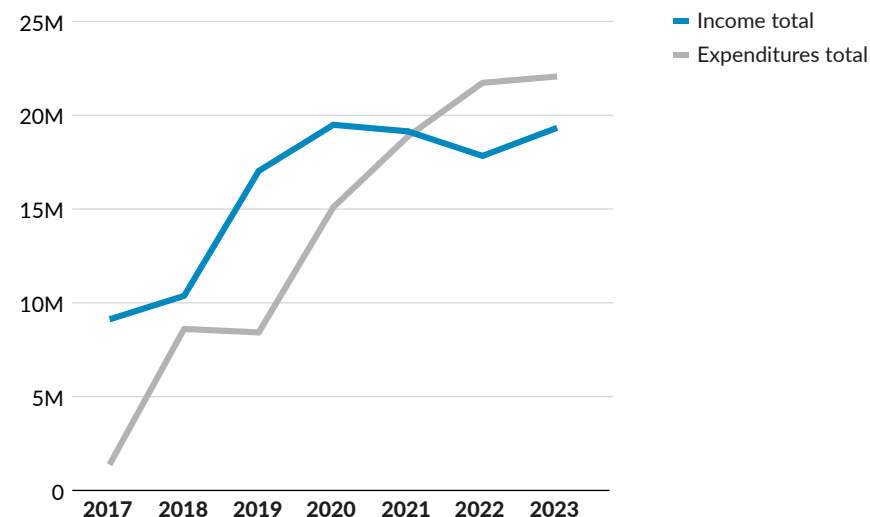
Funding overview

The IIIM is primarily funded through assessed contributions from Member States to the UN regular budget (RB). This funding is complemented by voluntary contributions (extrabudgetary funding, or XB) from donors, the majority of which are Member States.

In 2023, the first implementation year of [the 2023-2025 Strategic Plan](#), the IIIM's total expenditure was USD 22,068,000. Of this total, 71 per cent was funded by the United Nations regular budget and 29 per cent by voluntary contributions.

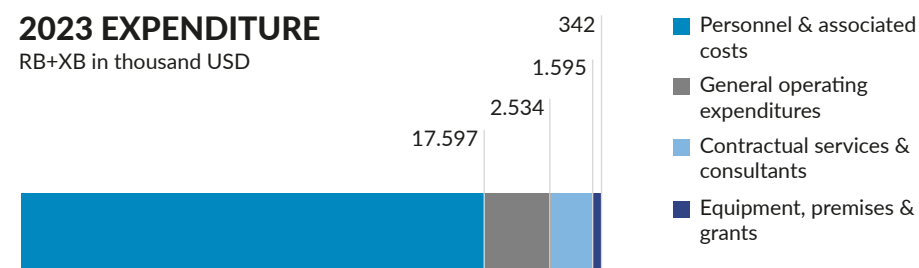
The UN regular budget should finance all activities mandated by the General Assembly. The regular budget allocation, however, has maintained constant since 2020 and therefore does not keep pace with the growth in the demand for IIIM's services.

For the second year in a row, in 2023, the IIIM faced a level of demand for its services which exceeded its annual income and could only be met by drawing on extra budgetary reserves accumulated from past years. These reserves are now depleted.



2023 EXPENDITURE

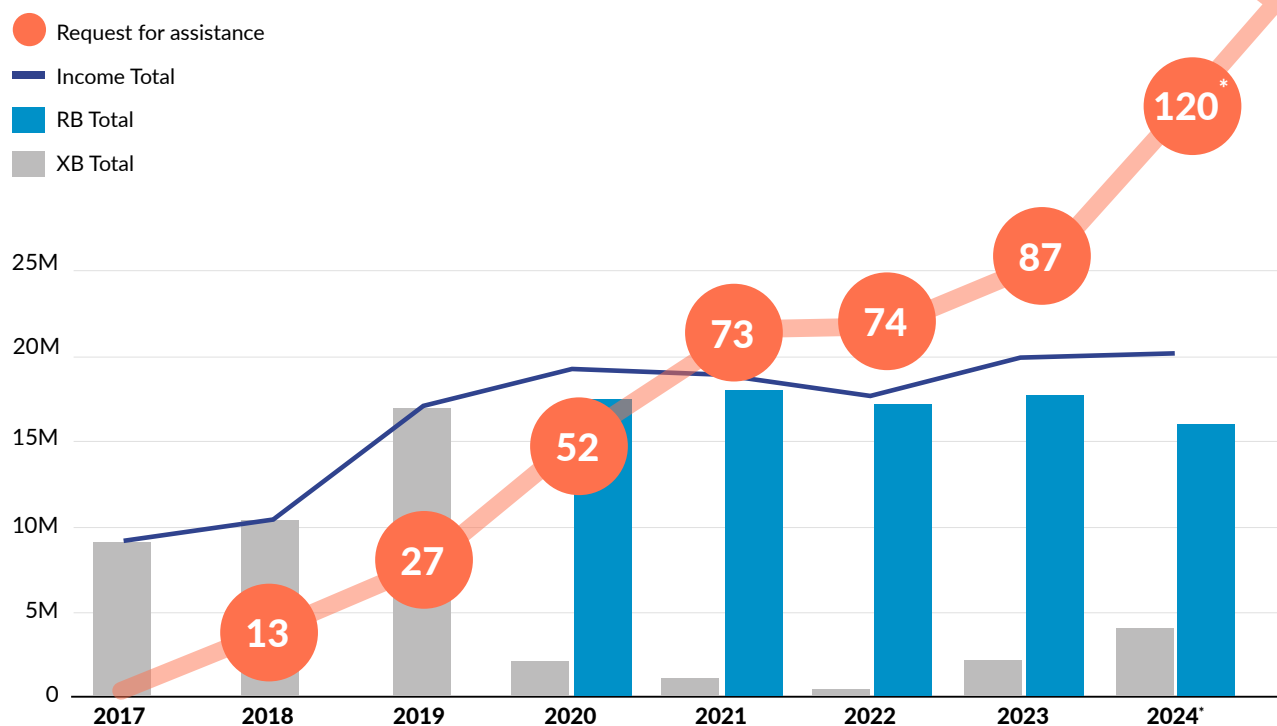
RB+XB in thousand USD



INCREASING DEMANDS FROM COMPETENT JURISDICTIONS

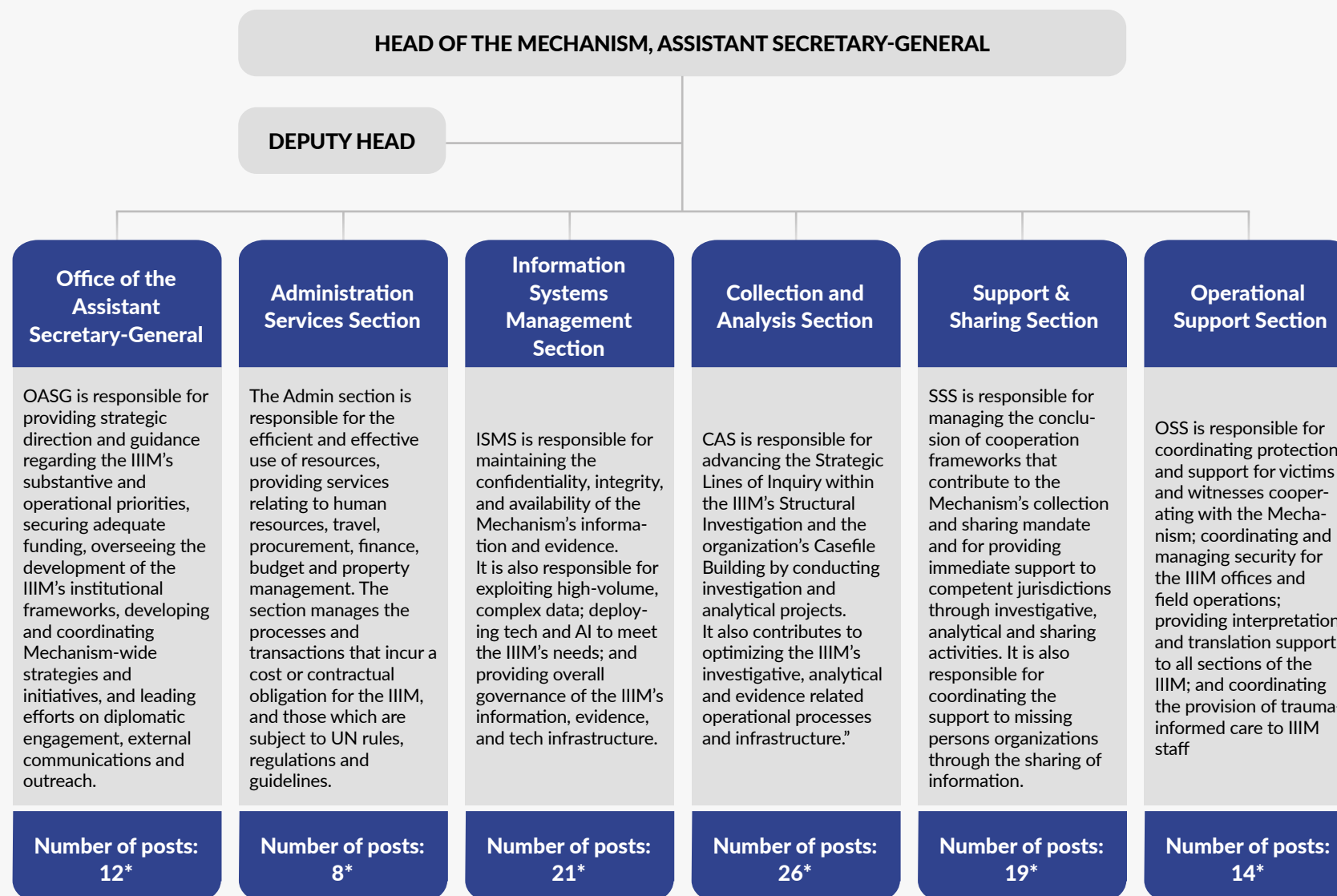
In 2023, the Mechanism's total income was outpaced by the increasing requests for its services, notably in requests for assistance from competent jurisdictions. As a result, in 2024 we have had to take measures such as a reduction in workforce, and related areas of mandated work. Our clients, from victims and survivors to competent jurisdictions, increasingly count on the Mechanism. And we count on our donors to help us maintain these opportunities to pursue accountability for the crimes that continue to be committed in Syria.

ANNUAL INCOME: RB + XB AGAINST RFAS



* Projections

The team at a glance



* Total number of posts (RB & XB). The actual number of staff is lower, notably due to insufficient funding



**United
Nations**

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