



**United
Nations**

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

IIM Syria

Report

on

2024

results

Table of contents

3 Foreword

4 **Key results**
Contributions to justice processes
Voices from the IIIM: Competent jurisdictions

5 **IIIM results framework**

8 **Outcomes**
Goal 1: Effectively support competent jurisdictions investigating and prosecuting atrocity crimes in Syria
Goal 2: Effectively prepare to support future jurisdictions to investigate and prosecute atrocity crimes in Syria
Goal 3: Improve the impact and integration of communication with victims, survivors and Syrian civil society

11 **IIIM in the media**

13 **Funding overview**

Words from Robert Petit, Head of the Mechanism

The unexpected overthrow of the Assad regime in December 2024 marked a turning point for the Syrian people and for the IIIM.

From its establishment in 2016, the IIIM attempted to engage with the Syrian authorities without success. Since December 2024, the IIIM has conducted several missions to Syria and has been working tirelessly to engage with the caretaker authorities to secure approval to operate on the ground and to support the transitional justice process.

In 2024, the IIIM spared no effort in discharging its mandate. We responded to an increasing number of requests for assistance, we advanced work on our structural investigation and continued to work closely with our Syrian civil society partners. As you will see in this annual report, we were able to make

significant progress in supporting justice efforts for Syria through universal jurisdiction cases. For the first time, we publicly released an analytical report and circulated it widely to contribute to ongoing justice and accountability efforts.

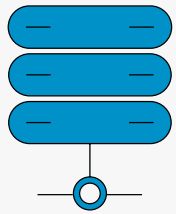
The IIIM's achievements are all the more remarkable as we faced a difficult financial situation resulting in a reduced team facing increasing demands. Going forward, and with new opportunities arising from the possibility to operate in Syria, the IIIM will increasingly rely on voluntary contributions to complement our regular budget.

I look forward to your support to be prepared to support Syrian initiatives to bring perpetrators of atrocity crimes to justice.



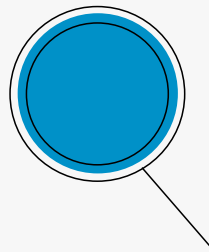
Robert Petit
Head of the IIIM

Key results



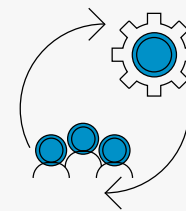
283

terabytes of data and
evidence in
the IIIM Central Repository



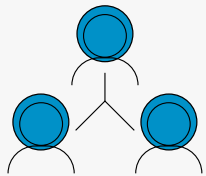
215

investigations supported



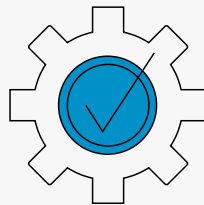
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engagements with
Syrian victims/survivors



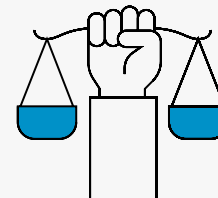
100

cooperation frameworks



100

requests for assistance
received bringing the
total to **426**



3

domestic laws enable
cooperation with the IIIM

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

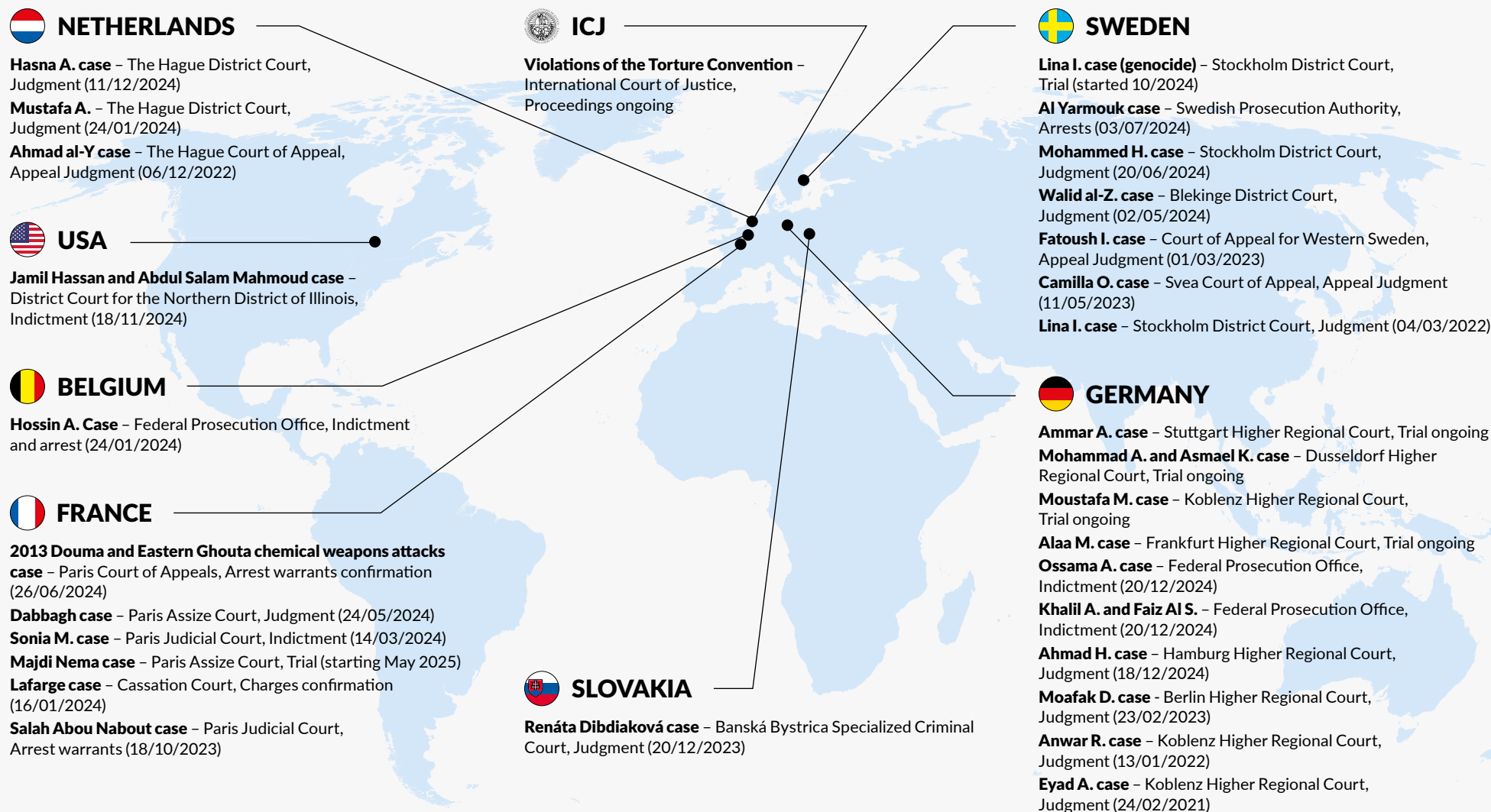
The Volume of High-Quality Sharing Packages Maximized

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





Voices on the IIIM

Through years of mutual cooperation and with patient and discreet engagement, the IIIM has built a solid relation of trust with the 16 competent jurisdictions with which it cooperates. Where the IIIM contributions to justice processes can be disclosed, some of the recipients of IIIM support have agreed to share their feedback.

For a more comprehensive overview of these testimonials, see the fuller version available [on the IIIM website](#).



The close cooperation and efficiency of the IIIM has enabled convictions on a variety of charges [...]. The IIIM's contribution to Swedish National accountability efforts has been invaluable. The need for a Mechanism like the IIIM cannot be underestimated in the pursuit of holding perpetrators accountable for core international crimes on national level."

Reena Devgun,
Senior Public Prosecutor,
National Unit Against Organised Crimes,
Sweden



IIIM was able to provide crucial evidence and information used for the indictment and verdicts in first criminal proceedings globally against two former intelligence officers of the Syrian regime." "IIIM has become an indispensable partner (on) investigations and criminal proceedings against former members of the Syrian regime who are suspected of war crimes and crimes against humanity."

Jasper Klinge,
Federal Public Prosecutor,
Head of War Crimes Unit S 6,
German Federal Public Prosecutor's Office

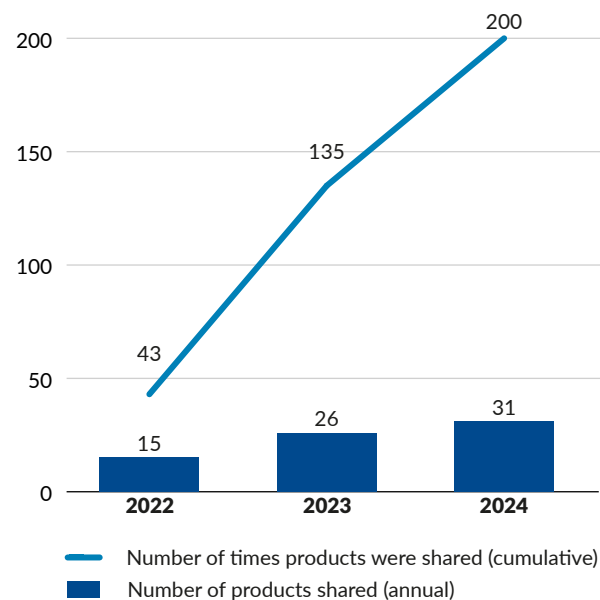
Outcome 1

EFFECTIVELY SUPPORT COMPETENT JURISDICTIONS INVESTIGATING OR PROSECUTING ATROCITY CRIMES IN SYRIA

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

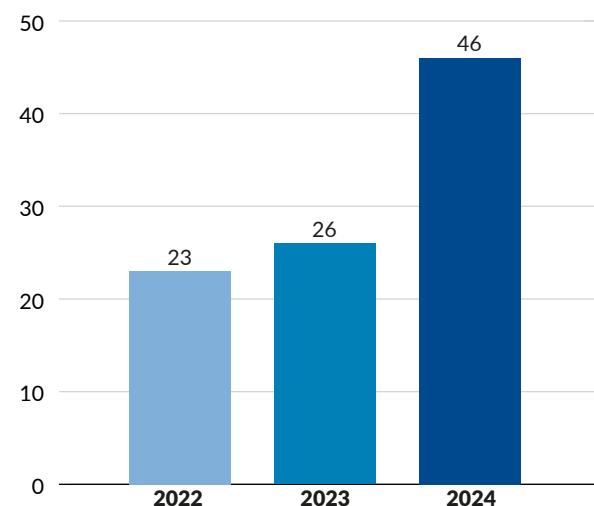
■ Performance measure:

Number of analytical products shared with competent jurisdictions per year and frequency of sharing



■ Performance measure:

Number of information and evidence packages proactively made available to competent jurisdictions and to assist the search for missing persons



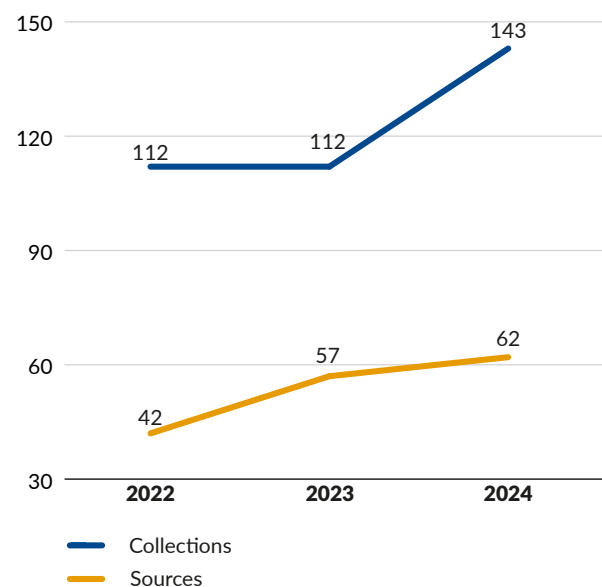
Outcome 2

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

IIIM 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.

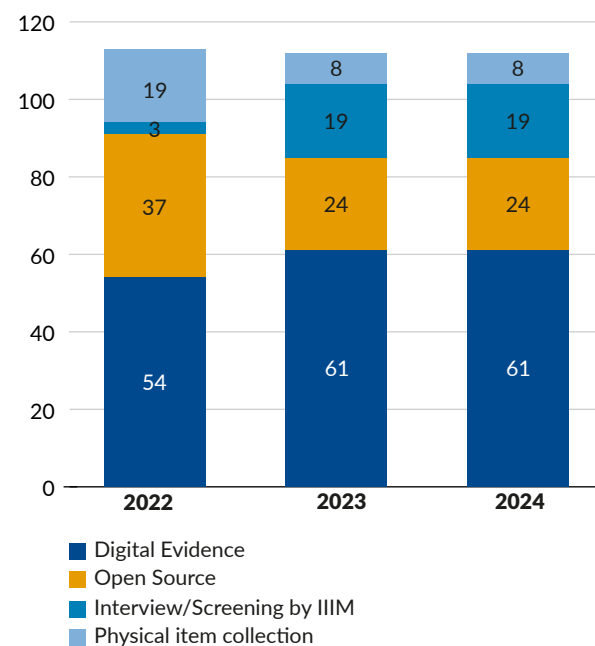
▪ Performance measure:

Number of collection activities conducted and number of sources



▪ Performance measure:

Types of collections of evidence and materials



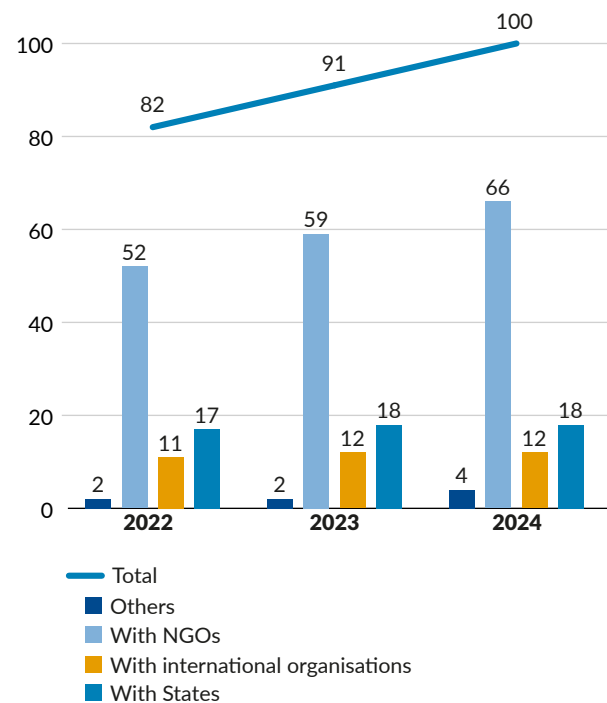
Outcome 3

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.

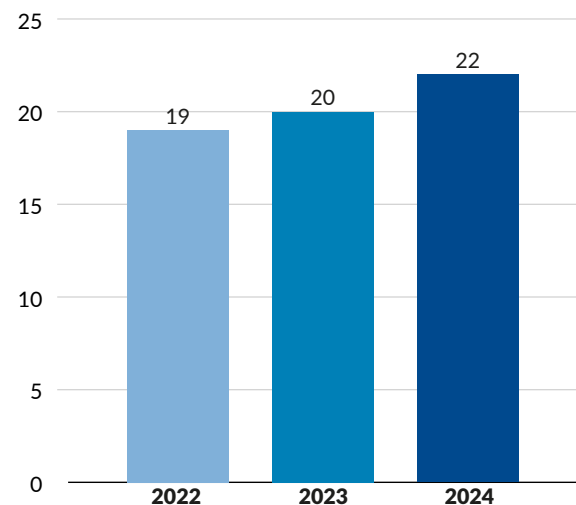
■ Performance measure:

Number of cooperation frameworks



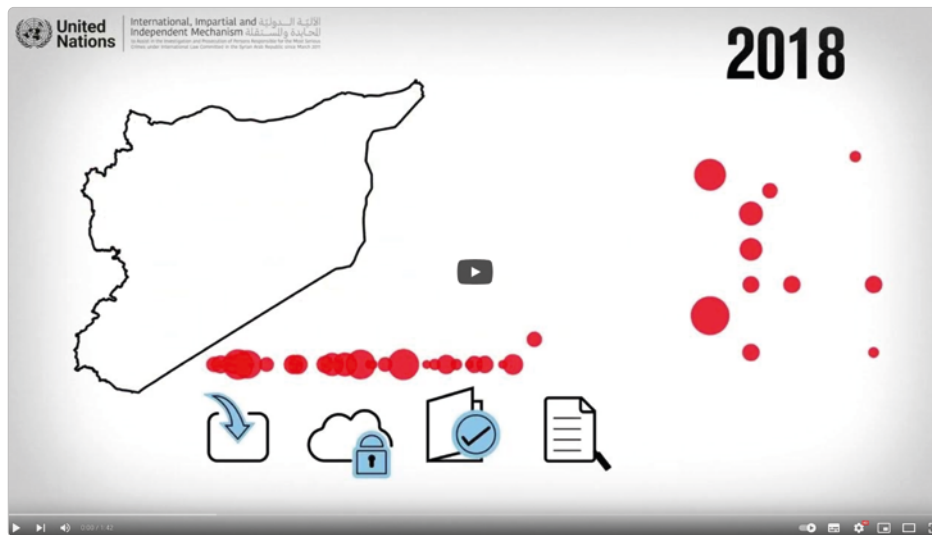
■ Performance measure:

Number of engagements with victims and survivors

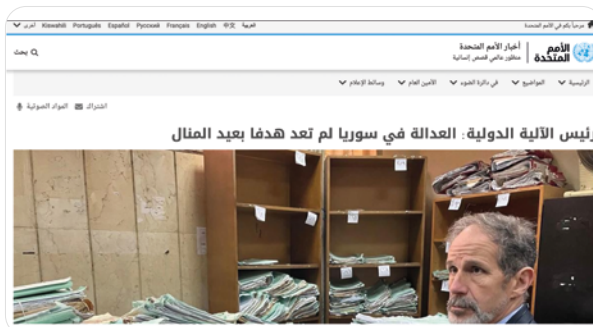


IIIM in the media

The IIIM undertook its first visit to Damascus in 2024 after the fall of the Assad on 8 December. This historic visit of the Head of the IIIM prompted a sudden and unprecedented interest by international media. The Mechanism has responded to significant media requests through which it has enhanced its public visibility, some of which are highlighted here. Links to full coverage can be found on the [IIIM's website](#).

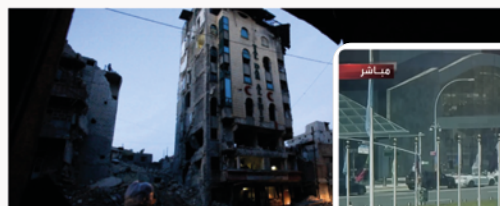


IIIM in the media



UN's IIM says new possibility to access evidence brings accountability closer in Syria

04:20 18/12/2024, Wednesday
AA



Access to Syria 'crime scene' a 'game-changer': UN investigator

The IIM was set up by the UN in late 2016 and was tasked with preparing prosecutions for major international crimes committed by all sides in Syria

Published: Tue 10 Dec 2024, 2:48 PM

By AFP

Top Stories



Head of the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism for the Syria (IIIM) Canadian Robert Petit poses during an interview in Geneva on December 8, 2024. - AFP

UN investigators who for years have been gathering evidence of horrific crimes committed in Syria hope Bashar Al Assad's downfall will finally mean



رئيس آلية المساءلة الأممية في سوريا: هناك جدران خطيرة أبرزها الإخوة الجزيرة مباشر

Financials

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

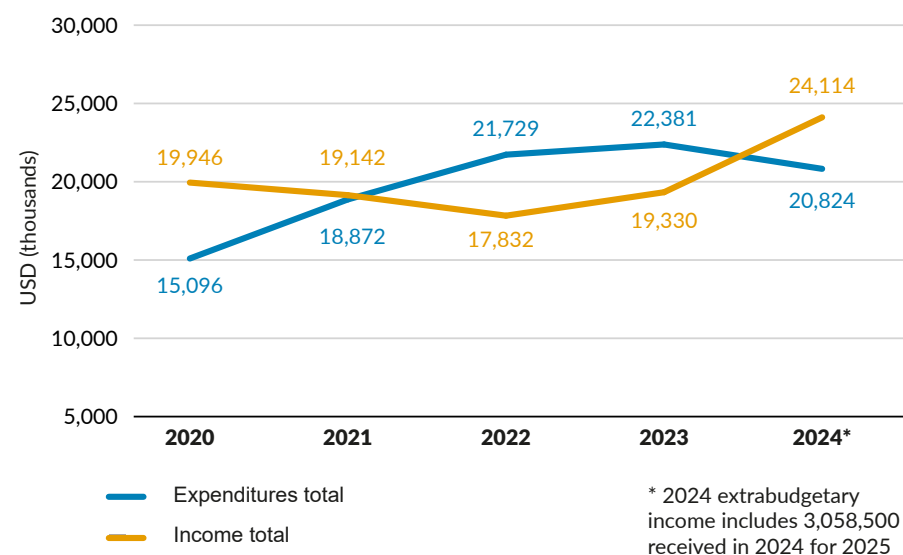
In 2024, the IIIM's total expenditure was USD 20,823,600. Of this total, 67 per cent was funded by the United Nations regular budget and 33 per cent by voluntary contributions.

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 third year in a row, in 2024 the IIIM faced a level of demand for its services which exceeded its annual income.

The IIIM is grateful to its donors, including those who provided voluntary contributions in 2024.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE (regular budget + extrabudgetary)

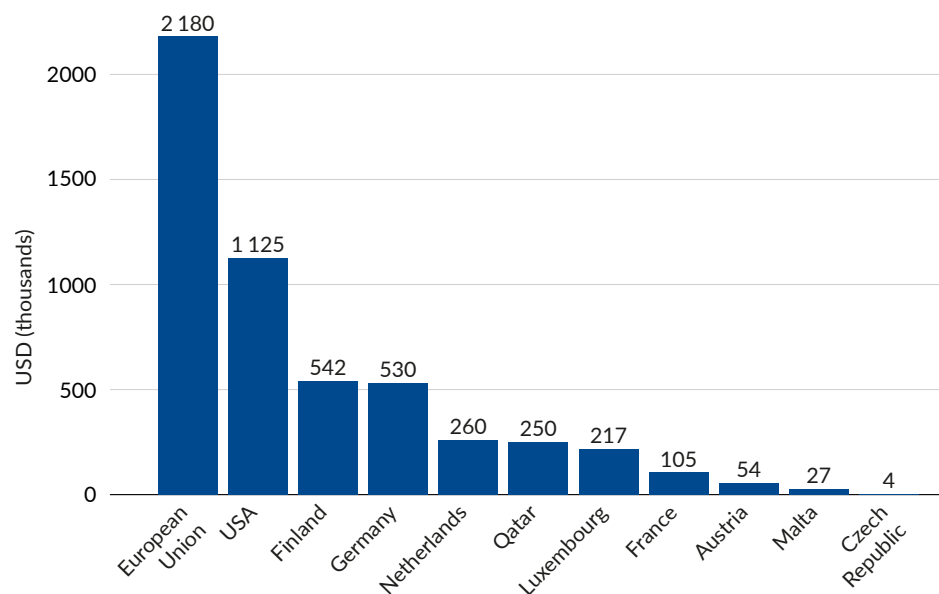


In 2024, the funds made available to the Mechanism were insufficient to enable it to respond to the increasing number of demands from competent jurisdictions. For the first time, the Mechanism reached the symbolic figure of 100 requests for assistance received during the year. However, the insufficient level of funding compelled the Mechanism to terminate 13 posts during the course of 2024.

As evidenced by the charts of previous pages, the increase in demands for IIIM support by competent jurisdictions has resulted in the production of more analytical products, and more work responding to the

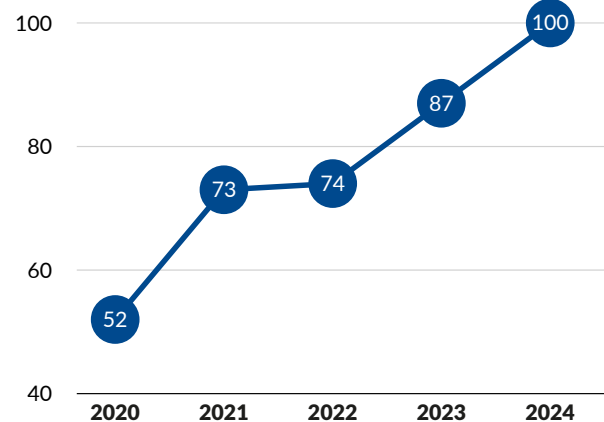
increasing number of requests while many requests from previous years require continued work. As in previous years, the income of the Mechanism in 2024 did not meet requirements, which compelled the Mechanism to decline requests for assistance or reduce the support it was able to provide. In 2024, the funding deficit continued and total income only exceeded total expenditures due to extrabudgetary funds received in advance, for 2025. The funding gap for 2025 will largely depend on whether or not a proposed presence in Syria will be funded through the regular budget.

2024 VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS*



* includes 3,058,500 received in 2024 for 2025

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

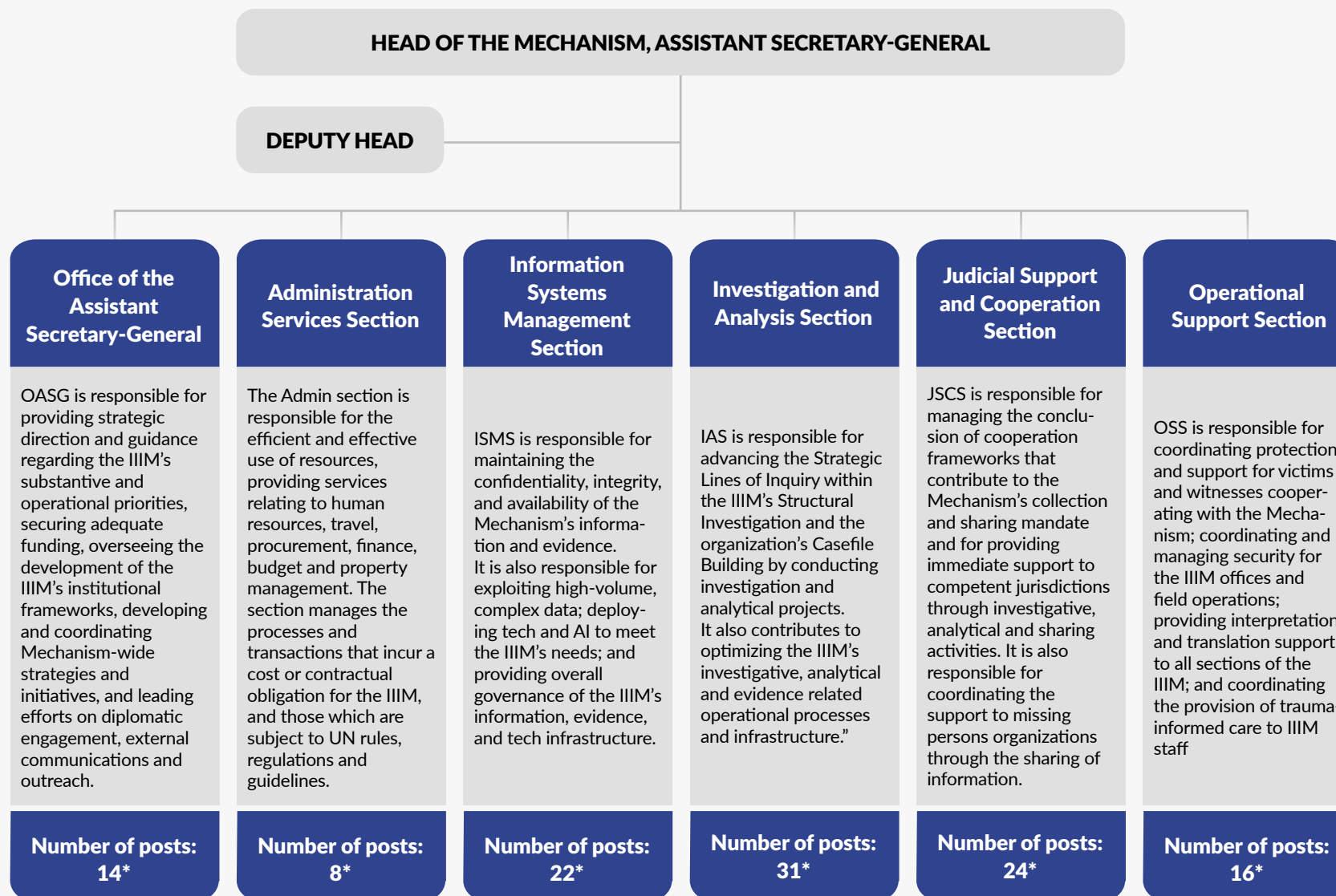


Impact of funding gap

IN 2024, DUE TO THE FUNDING DEFECIT, THE MECHANISM:

- » Had to **decline requests for analytical products** in 14 instances from 7 competent jurisdictions
- » Had to **limit the scope of searches** in the Central Repository for approximately 35% of the requests submitted
- » Had to **decline requests for 5 witness interviews**
- » The average **time required to respond to requests has increased**, with non-urgent requests being handled on average 8 to 10 months after submission
- » **No longer proactively offers support** through **open-source investigations** in **Arabic and Russian**
- » **Limited engagement with witnesses potentially at risk** due to insufficient follow-up options
- » Significant **decrease of collections** solely for preservation purposes
- » **Closure of one line of inquiry**

The team at a glance



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



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