



**ENDING
VIOLENCE
AGAINST
MIGRANTS**

EVAM A NEW TOOL

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PREAMBLE

To a large extent, violence affecting migrants is not rooted in a desire to harm but rather in the inadequacy of public policies in place or practices that do not sufficiently consider the specific situation of migrants. Situations of violence affecting migrants need to be revealed to those in a position to address them. Systematically documenting situations of violence is the first necessary step to create a solid and argued basis for discussion.

Furthermore, when a situation of violence is identified, it is either denounced through collective action to combat the policy that generated it, or through individual action in Court to assert the rights of the victim. Too rarely, the position of the actor or institution at the origin of the violence is considered. As a result, actors and institutions are put on a defensive mode: they are pressed to justify their position, rather than to look for alternative options.

EVAM chooses to take the motivations behind policies and practices as a given (or at least something it is not able to change in the short term). It does not challenge the institutions in their motivations and adopts a “**neutral**” approach. As such, it avoids confrontation and creates a favorable environment for dialogue, with the aim to identify concrete measures that can be adopted and translate into immediate improvement for migrants confronted to situations of violence.

ABOUT EVAM

Ending Violence Against Migrants (EVAM) was conceived following months of consultations in Brussels with experts in the field of migration and forced displacement, human rights and humanitarian affairs. Initially hosted by Médecins du Monde Belgium, the EVAM initiative became a non-profit association under Belgian law (asbl) in January 2019.

Through the implementation of a **collaborative** process, EVAM aims to reduce violence that originates directly or indirectly from the practices of actors and institutions. To achieve this objective, EVAM supports the process of documenting situations of violence, draws the attention of actors or institutions to the harmful consequences of their actions and policies, and proposes to accompany them in identifying concrete measures for their elimination.

EVAM's approach is based on the intermediation between field operators in contact with migrants victims of violence and institutions and actors in a position to reduce them. The central hypothesis of the initiative is that most of violent situations affecting migrants are unintended and that no actor, or very few, would be reluctant to act to limit the harmful consequences of their practices - provided that these situations of violence are known and that the corrective measures do not run against the interest or objectives of the institution.

METHODOLOGY

3 PRINCIPLES / 4 STEPS

METHODOLOGY

At the core of EVAM initiative is the assessment. Its purpose is to reveal the reality of the hardship endured by migrants by collecting and classifying data. Once made aware of the violence, relevant stakeholders are mobilized and encouraged to use the information and act on the causes of violence.

The strength of this methodology is that it is applicable to all types of violence, in any place, provided that partnerships are established with grassroots actors, and that relevant institutions are interested in reducing harmful situations affecting migrants.

EVAM never acts alone and is not operational as such. It operates in the form of a senior consultancy working in close collaboration with civil society actors, to document abuses and mobilize actors and institutions towards the elimination of these.

Its methodology can be applied to all cases of physical or psychological violence against a migrant, i.e. anyone living - either as a migrant or as a refugee- in the territory of the State of which he or she is not a national.

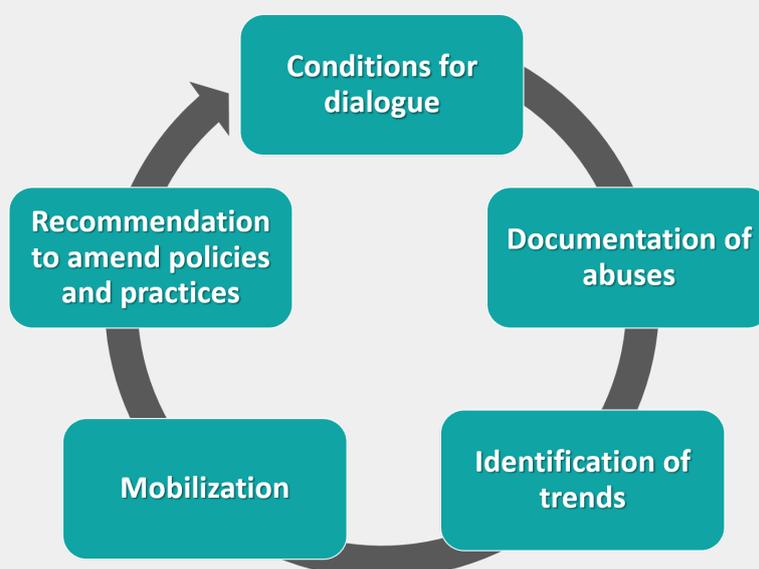


Diagram of the EVAM methodology

3 PRINCIPLES / 4 STEPS



1. EVAM is not involved in the case management of affected migrants, its support takes the form of institutional change consulting.
2. EVAM distinguishes itself from many non-governmental organizations by its willingness not to denounce but, rather, to establish a real institutional dialogue with the perpetrators of violence.
3. EVAM is built around the desire to put in place a methodology that offers perpetrators of violence an opportunity to find concrete solutions to put an end to it.

4 STEPS



Step 1. Identify the operational framework of the targeted actor or institution as changes will eventually have to be implemented by the institution or the actor involved in the violence: the process should be adapted to their realities.

Step 2. At the heart of the survey is the testimony of victims of violence. EVAM's documentation work is rooted in the intimate knowledge field actors have of the reality of the hardship endured by migrants.

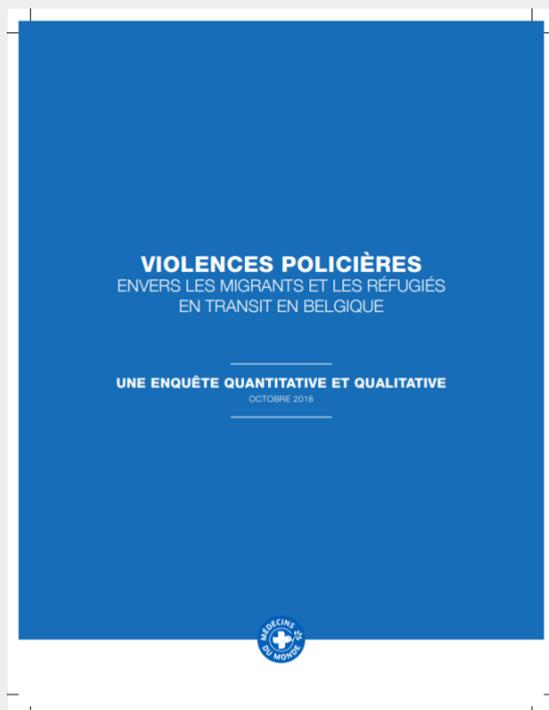
Step 3. EVAM supports to production of an analysis of the collected allegations. Based on a collaborative work between the field operator and the institution, the final document seeks to identify 5 key levers to reduce violence.

Step 4. The final step consists of assisting the institution in the implementation of the recommended steps. Where needed, support can be provided in the longer term to ensure continuous support in the elimination of the main identified causes of violence.

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PRESENTATION OF OUR PROJECTS

1 - Report : "Police violence against migrants and refugees in transit in Belgium"



In 2018, EVAM participated in the elaboration of the report *"Police violence against migrants and refugees in transit in Belgium"* by Médecins de Monde - Belgium.

This survey was a quantitative and qualitative study carried out over three months thanks to the testimonies of 440 migrants from the Humanitarian Hub interviewed on their experience with the police force.

The police force supported the process and guided MDM documentation work to ensure the information collected would be immediately relevant to their ways of working and to identify where corrective measures were needed.

This report served as an advocacy tool to support discussions between MDM teams and the Belgian public authorities at operational level (heads of corps), supervisory authority (P committee), central (Prime Minister's Office).

Today EVAM wishes to continue its dialogue with the Belgian police in collaboration with Médecins du Monde to tighten working relationship with the force and ensure progresses are made in the long term.

2 - EVAM in Ecuador : Context and proposal of Red Clamor

The crisis in Venezuela and Colombia has forced millions of people to flee throughout the region and in Ecuador in particular. As a result, xenophobia and discrimination has increasingly affected migrants and refugees in Ecuador, with drastic consequences on their ability to access education and health services in Ecuador.

At the beginning of 2020, Ecuadorian authorities have formalized their desire to work with EVAM to identify these situations and take measures to address them.

In March, Red Clamor, a consortium of NGOs in Ecuador, proposed collaboration with EVAM on "**Discrimination and Xenophobia in education and health**" (**Appendice 1**). *Others have expressed interest: CARE, Red Cross and Alas Colibri.*

Red Clamor

RED CLAMOR
CAPÍTULO ECUADOR



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PRESENTATION OF OUR MEMBERS

OUR MEMBERS



Médecins du Monde Belgium (MdM) is a medical NGO of international solidarity which intervenes in Belgium and abroad in order to facilitate access to care for vulnerable people.



The Mixed Migration Centre (MMC) is part of the Danish Refugee Council (DRC). It's a leading source for independent and high-quality data, information, research and analysis on mixed migration.



The Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM), is a network of organizations working to ensure social justice and human rights for undocumented migrants.



Diaspora
Développement
Education
Migration



DIADEM is a Senegalese non-profit association whose actions are part of the improvement of the living conditions of the populations and the promotion of dialogues between different actors to achieve this objective.

EVAM wishes to develop its network and find new members and partners. If you are interested in joining us, you can contact us at initiative@evam.global