



HUMANITARIAN CORRIDORS AND THE PRIVATE SPONSORSHIP SCHEME

Definition, Characteristics and Instruments



SANT'EGIDIO

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WHAT IS A HUMANITARIAN CORRIDOR?

- Definition -

Humanitarian Corridors have been invented by the Community of Sant'Egidio and other organizations, trying to give an opportunity to the thousands of migrants who risk their lives in an attempt to reach Europe

A Humanitarian Corridor is a programme aimed at saving lives of vulnerable people in harsh conditions; it consists in a safe trip to Europe and in an integration path in EU countries

The final purpose of Humanitarian Corridors is to fully integrate migrants in the social fabric of recipient countries, basing on the principle that all people are an opportunity and not a problem for society

A Humanitarian Corridor is a structured process consisting of several stages: signing of a Protocol with public authorities, selection and preparation of beneficiaries, selection and training of private sponsors, safe and legal trips, integration pathway, inclusion in the social fabric of the recipient country

A HUMANITARIAN CORRIDOR IS NOT ONLY AN ESCAPE ROUTE FOR PEOPLE IN SITUATION OF IMMEDIATE DANGER! IT IS A LONG-PERIOD PROGRAMME STARTING FROM A REFUGEE CAMP AND ENDING WITH FULL INTEGRATION OF PEOPLE IN EUROPEAN SOCIETIES



WHY HUMANITARIAN CORRIDORS?

-Needs-

At least 24,443 lives were lost in sea-crossing towards Europe (2014-2021)

Moreover, a non-calculable number of people passed away in the trip towards the sea coasts, or in camps waiting for departure, or in never-recorded boat sinkings, or in the overland journey towards Europe

A large portion of victims were minors

Only in 2021, UNHCR recorded 123,400 "individual crossings" towards Europe from the Mediterranean and the Atlantic

Millions of people are fleeing war and/or harsh living conditions from Syria, Lebanon, Eritrea, Libya, Morocco, Ethiopia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Ukraine...

HUMANITARIAN CORRIDORS SAVE LIVES AND OFFER PEOPLE THE OPPORTUNITY TO REBUILD AN INDEPENDENT AND INTEGRATED LIFE IN EUROPE



WHAT ARE THE HUMANITARIAN CORRIDORS PECULIARITIES?

- Characteristics -

The Humanitarian Corridors Scheme (HCS) consists in a **Private Sponsorship Model** which allows a legal entrance and full integration of vulnerable people in EU countries. The beneficiaries are entitled to humanitarian protection in accordance with international rules

HCS relies on the crucial role of **Civil Society**. Associations, religious and civil communities, NGOs etc. organize, manage and finance the Corridors. As Coordinators and/or Sponsors of the programme, **they are directly responsible** for Corridors implementation

HCS also envisages the signature of **Protocols/Agreements** between the Promoters of the programme and the public authorities, in order to define the **legal basis** of the Humanitarian Corridors. The concrete implementation of Humanitarian Corridors belongs to Civil Society

Protocols/Agreements **authorize** the entrance of a certain number of people from specific countries in a given period of time. They lay down the commitments of the involved parties and the objectives of the whole programme

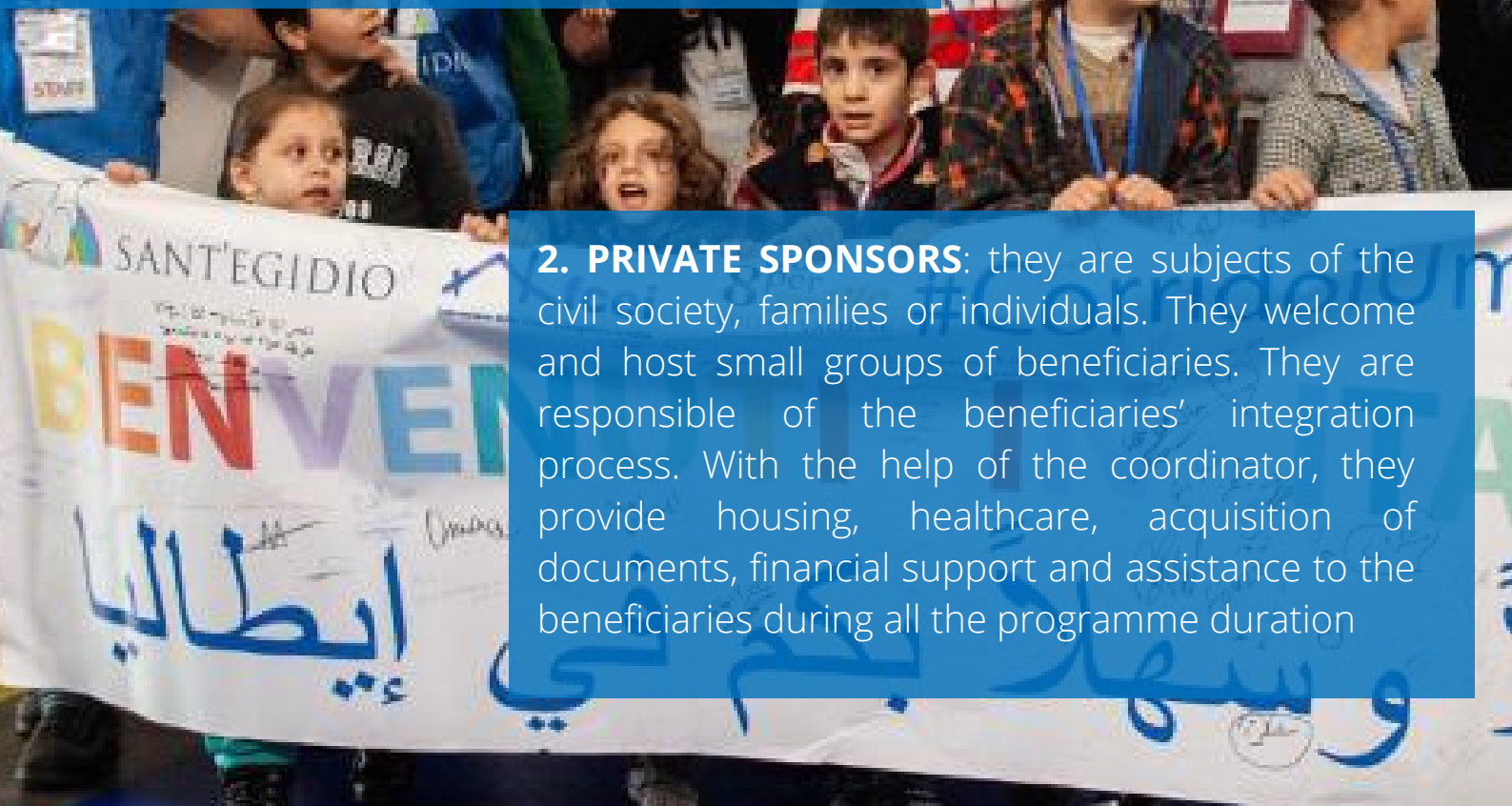
HCS embraces an **“Adoptive Approach”** towards beneficiaries. It means that they must play an active role in their own integration, also entering into binding commitments

A HUMANITARIAN CORRIDOR IS NOT ONLY AN ACT OF CHARITY; IT IS A LEGAL AND SOCIAL PROCESS AIMING AT THE FULL INTEGRATION OF PEOPLE, IN THE INTEREST BOTH OF MIGRANTS AND OF RECIPIENT COUNTRIES

WHO ARE THE KEY PLAYERS?

-Relevant Stakeholders: Coordinators, Sponsors, Beneficiaries-

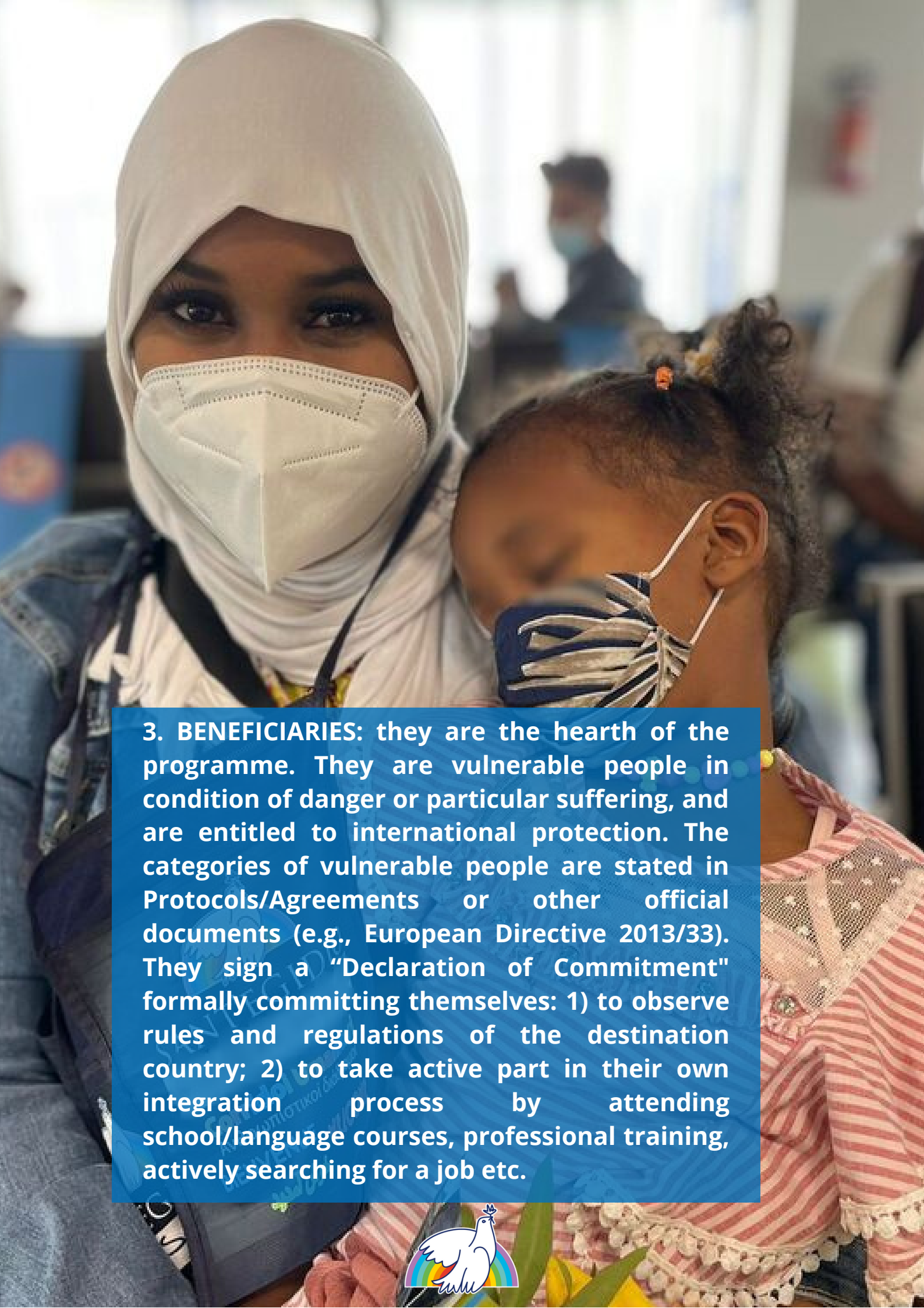
1. COORDINATORS/PROMOTERS: they are relevant subjects of the civil society (e.g., the Community of Sant'Egidio in Italy); they negotiate and sign Protocols/Agreements with public authorities in destination States and (if needed) in the countries of provenance of beneficiaries. They select the beneficiaries and organize safe trips to Europe. They select, train, coordinate, assist and monitor the widespread reception network, composed of private sponsors



2. PRIVATE SPONSORS: they are subjects of the civil society, families or individuals. They welcome and host small groups of beneficiaries. They are responsible of the beneficiaries' integration process. With the help of the coordinator, they provide housing, healthcare, acquisition of documents, financial support and assistance to the beneficiaries during all the programme duration

PUBLIC AUTHORITIES ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HUMANITARIAN CORRIDORS, NEITHER OPERATIVELY NOR FINANCIALLY. THEY PROVIDE THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF THE PROGRAMME, ACCORDING TO THE PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH THE PROMOTERS





3. BENEFICIARIES: they are the hearth of the programme. They are vulnerable people in condition of danger or particular suffering, and are entitled to international protection. The categories of vulnerable people are stated in Protocols/Agreements or other official documents (e.g., European Directive 2013/33). They sign a “Declaration of Commitment” formally committing themselves: 1) to observe rules and regulations of the destination country; 2) to take active part in their own integration process by attending school/language courses, professional training, actively searching for a job etc.



HOW DO HUMANITARIAN CORRIDORS WORK?

- Process Steps -

	Activity	Involved Parties
1	Sign of Protocol/Agreement	Coordinator; Public Authorities of the recipient country
2	Selection of Beneficiaries	Coordinator; Authorities of the provenience country; International Bodies (if necessary)
3	Selection and Training of a Network of Private Sponsors	Coordinator; Sponsors
4	Pre-Departure Activities with Beneficiaries (Meetings; Training; Sign of Declaration of Commitment by Beneficiaries)	Coordinator; Beneficiaries
5	Safe Trips to Europe	Coordinator; Beneficiaries
6	Welcome, Reception and Accommodation of Beneficiaries	Sponsors; Beneficiaries
7	Full Integration Path for Beneficiaries	Sponsors; Beneficiaries
8	Coordination, Supervision and Evaluation of the whole process	Coordinator



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WHO PAYS FOR HUMANITARIAN CORRIDORS?

- Resources -

Coordinators/Promoters must dispose of sufficient resources to autonomously manage all the stages of the programme, including the financial support to sponsors if necessary. They implement funded projects where possible

Private Sponsors must have sufficient resources to support the integration path of the beneficiaries under their responsibility

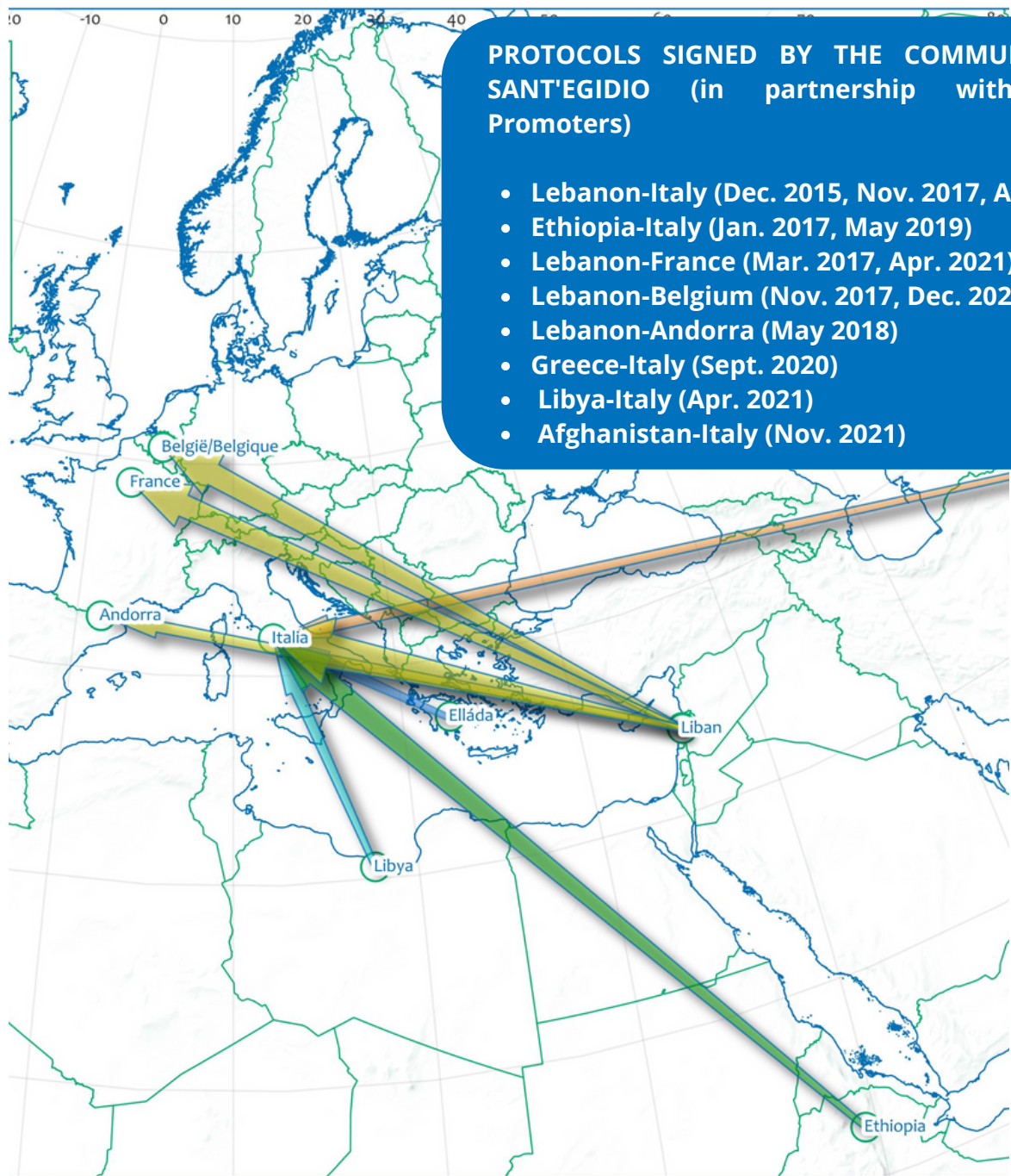
Beneficiaries don't have to pay for the programme. They must however increase their autonomy over time, also actively searching for a job. Beneficiaries can leave the programme in advance if they achieve full autonomy

Public authorities contribute to the programme only if the Protocols/Agreement so state. They are not responsible for the programme implementation or funding

HUMANITARIAN CORRIDORS ARE NOT A FORM OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FOR MIGRANTS. THEY RELY ON RESOURCES COMING FROM THE CIVIL SOCIETY

WHICH CORRIDORS ARE ACTIVE?

Situation (Jul. 2022)



PROTOCOLS SIGNED BY THE COMMUNITY OF SANT'EGIDIO (in partnership with other Promoters)

- Lebanon-Italy (Dec. 2015, Nov. 2017, Aug. 2021)
- Ethiopia-Italy (Jan. 2017, May 2019)
- Lebanon-France (Mar. 2017, Apr. 2021)
- Lebanon-Belgium (Nov. 2017, Dec. 2021)
- Lebanon-Andorra (May 2018)
- Greece-Italy (Sept. 2020)
- Libya-Italy (Apr. 2021)
- Afghanistan-Italy (Nov. 2021)

REMEMBER:

- Protocols are signed by the Community (and other promoters) with public authorities of destination countries; they indicate the countries of actual residence of beneficiaries
- Beneficiaries often come from third countries, and they live in refugee camps abroad



RESULTS

Arrivals (2015 - July 2022)

5082 TOTAL ARRIVALS

(Italy, France, Belgium, Andorra)

ARRIVALS Jan.-Jul. 2022: 743 (Italy, France)

About 15% of total arrivals took place only in the first 7 months of 2022

23% MINORS

About one quarter of beneficiaries are minors

NATIONALITIES

Syrians, Eritreans, Somalis, Afghans, Yemenis, Sudanese, Iraqis, Lybians...

Secondary movements of migrants arrived through Humanitarian Corridors are reduced to a minimum



VOICES OF THE PROTAGONISTS

ELISSAR AL ATTAL

Arrived from Syria with her family, in 2018

"When we arrived at the airport, the members of the Community welcomed us with faces that were new for us, with huge smiles. I felt a sense of welcome. They were so happy to meet us. Now I've enrolled in University, I'm studying Science of Education. I feel very well and fully integrated"



LUCIA GALLI - Private Sponsor - Homeowner

"I had a vacant house, and I said to myself: why not? Why not help a family to live happily?"

MOHSEN AKBARPOUR

Arrived from Afghanistan on 27/07/2022 with his wife and two minor children

*"I'm so happy to arrive in Italy with the Community of Sant'Egidio. Here we will have a very peaceful life!
I want to learn Italian immediately, and to live in Italy"*





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