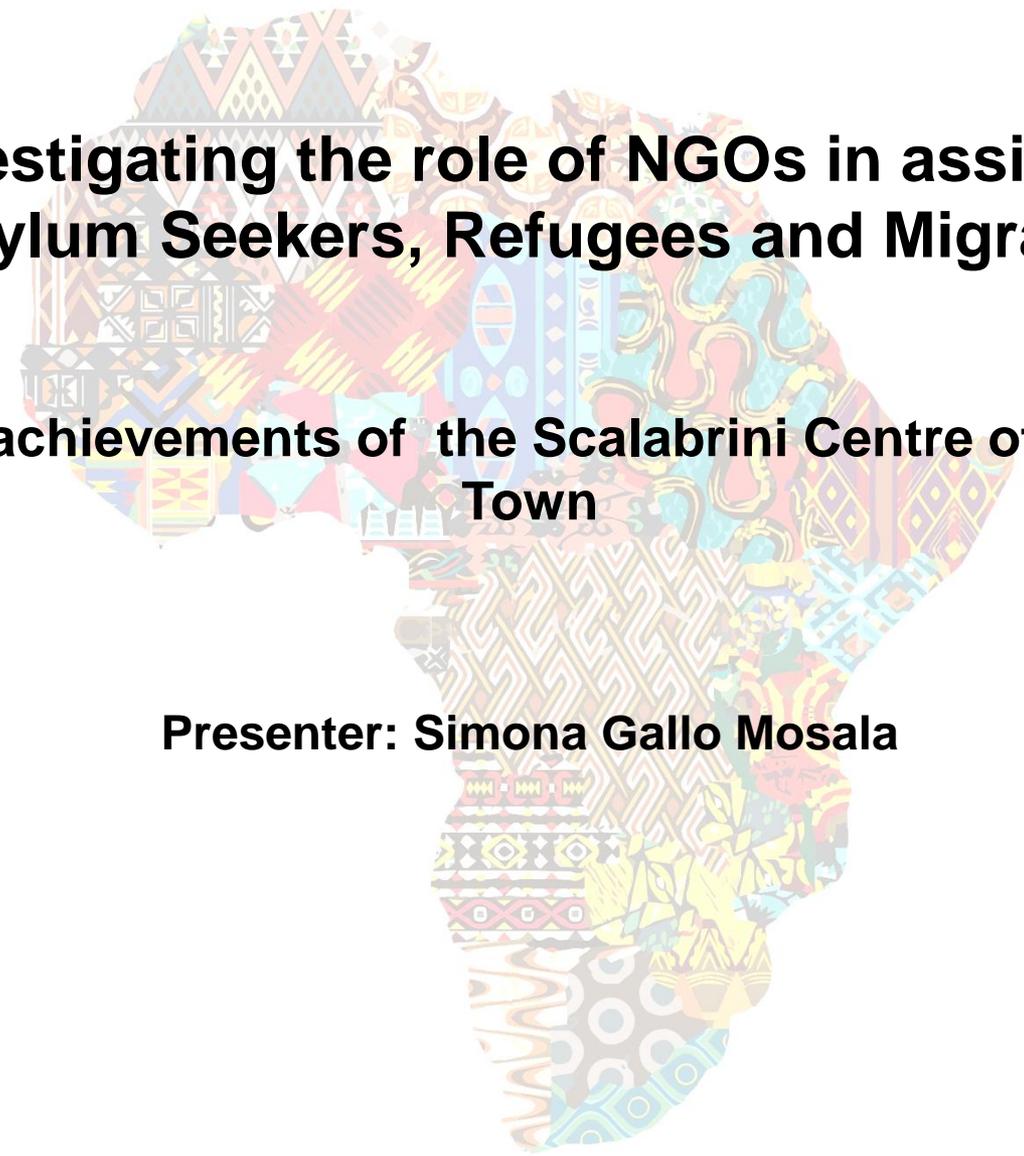




ILERA AFRICA 9th Regional Congress

26 - 29 September 2021





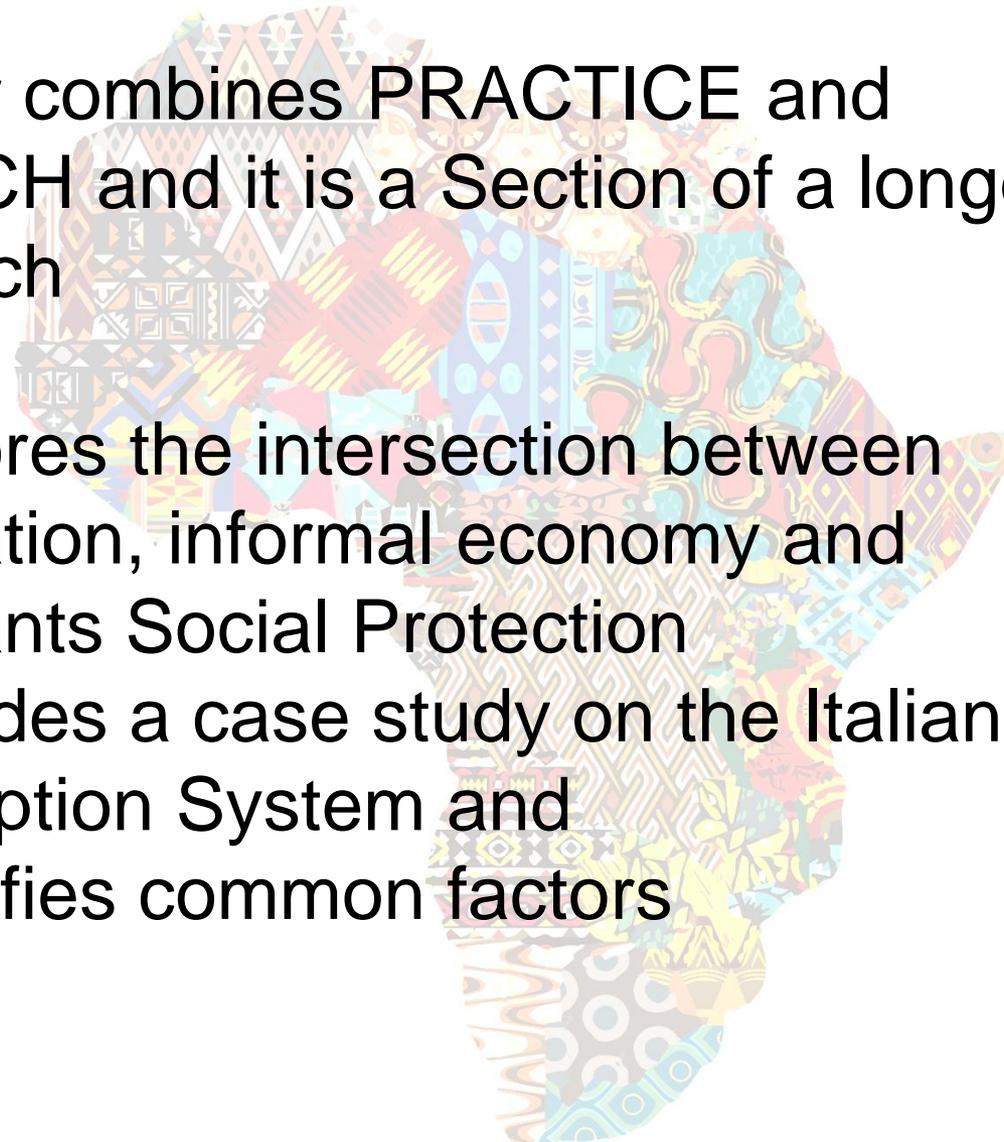
Investigating the role of NGOs in assisting Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Migrants

**The achievements of the Scalabrini Centre of Cape
Town**

Presenter: Simona Gallo Mosala



The paper combines PRACTICE and RESEARCH and it is a Section of a longer paper which

- 
- Explores the intersection between migration, informal economy and migrants Social Protection
 - Provides a case study on the Italian Reception System and
 - Identifies common factors

30 years of Globalisation

- Sharpened income differential between countries
- Widened gap between markets worldwide
- Increased migration between poor and rich countries

RESPONSE

Tightening opportunities for low skilled labour migrants to enter legally

CONSEQUENCES

Migrants *forced* to find informal access routes and/or conform applications to the Refugee Act requirements/Asylum

Covid19?

INTERVIEWS = Main Tool

Migrants wish to tell their story

- People centred = in line with a human right based approach
- Open ended & unstructured interviews = more information
- Challenges a) interpretation b) incorporating findings into a coherent format befitting theory c) truth and honesty of respondents

Only interviewed second level informants thus challenges (a) and (b) are reduced

Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town (SCCT) set up by the Scalabrini Fathers in 2002/4

ORIGIN: order of the roman catholic church assisting Italian migrants abroad during diaspora (27 million half over about 100 years 50% permanently settled abroad and spread in many countries)

DEVELOPMENT: Set up missions and created a worldwide network, gathered experience and over time developed Study Centres

PRESENTLY: around 1976 Italian mass migration ended SF continued their activities by assisting migrants of any nationality

Link between migration and church (catholic and waldesian), very strong in Italy, church organisations very active in creating, implementing and running Italian Reception System

The Centre receives about 2000 Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Migrants/Clients per month

Nationality: DRC and Zimbabwe most represented

Gender: 55% unrecorded, 25% women and 30% men

Age

Below 17 = 0,65 (minors captured under guardian's name)

18 - 24 = 5.7%

25 - 34 = 30%

35 - 34 = 30%

45 - 54 = 13%

17% unknown/unrecorded

Legal Status

10% Refugees Status

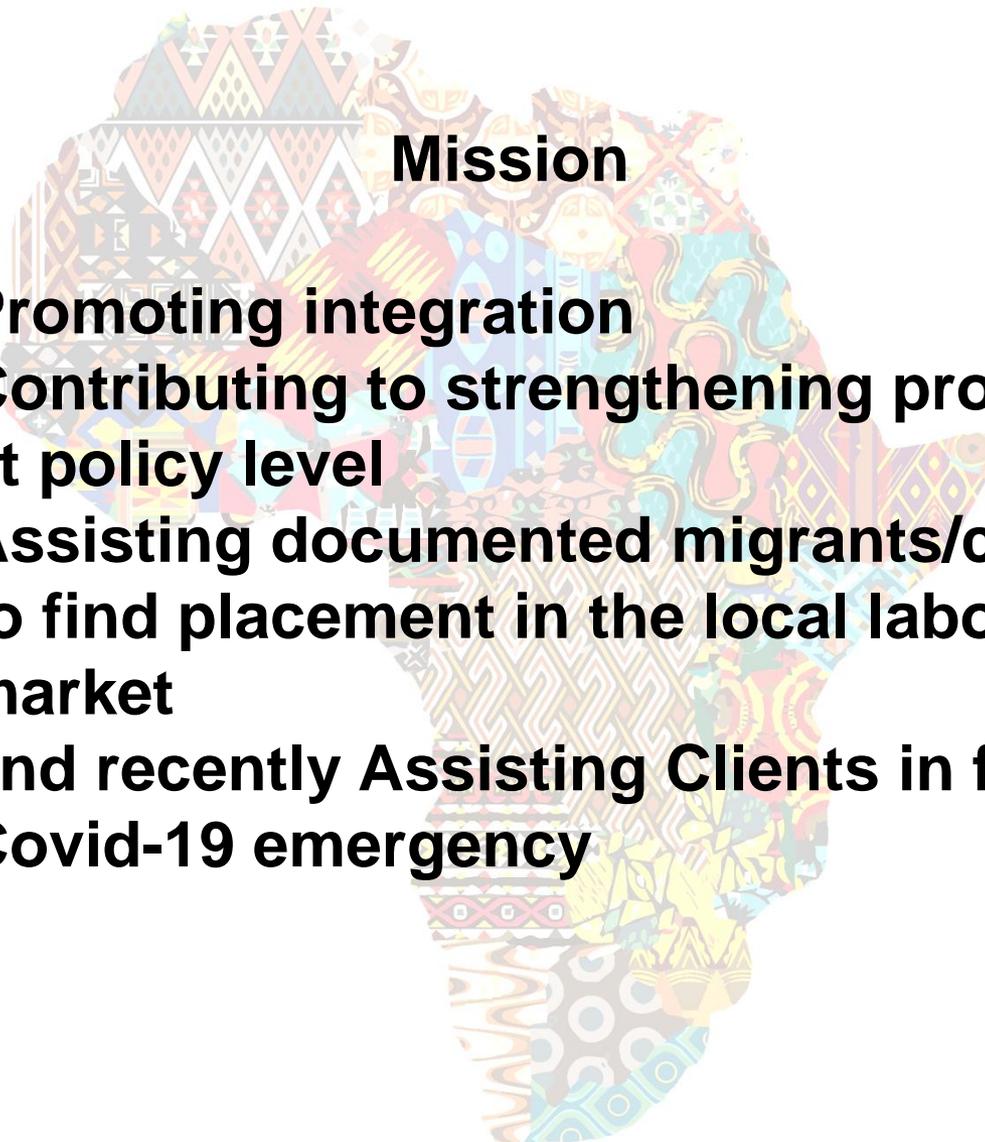
23% Asylum Seekers

5% Quota, Work, Residence and Business cumulatively

9% Undocumented BUT 40% Unknown and Blank

(all figures are rounded)

This demographics is in line with migration trends to South Africa



Mission

- **Promoting integration**
- **Contributing to strengthening protection at policy level**
- **Assisting documented migrants/clients to find placement in the local labour market**
- **and recently Assisting Clients in facing Covid-19 emergency**

METHOD: Action > Research> Action

- **Offering individual Client practical assistance AND recording experiences, circumstances, barriers in a Database**
- **Identifying main trends and challenges**
- **Investigating root causes behind such trends and assessing impact**

Translating findings into ACTION by

a) improving internal programme

b) and/or sharing outcomes with relevant stakeholders to Advocate for

SYSTEMIC CHANGE

Database = Tool

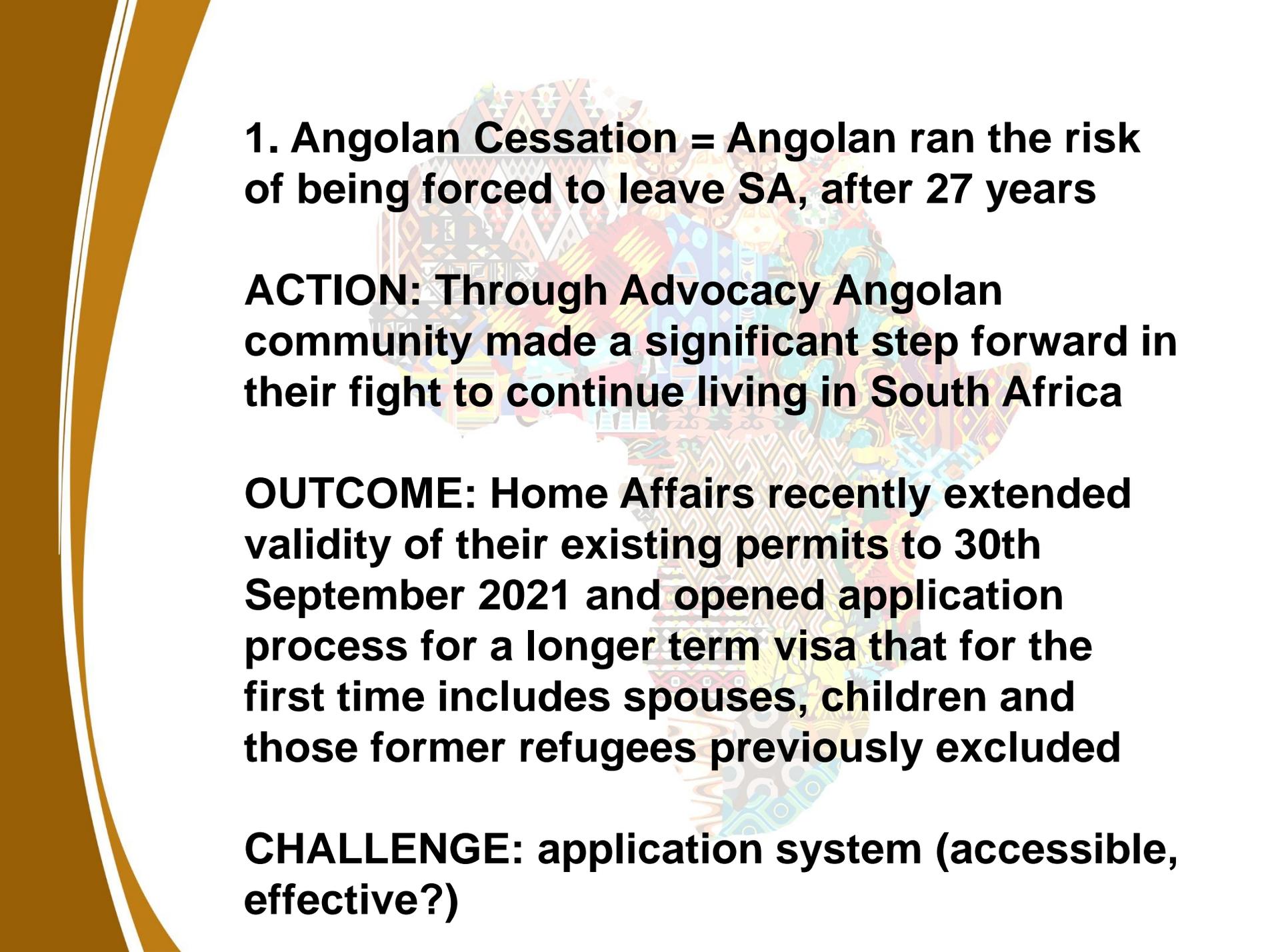
Advocacy = Strategy

Database thru internal and external research supports each Programme

- Paralegal Desk provides **assistance to Clients** accessing documents, education, justice and assisting minors
- Advocacy feeds **into and from** all Programmes: Welfare, Employment Access, Language School, Women Platform and Youth

This **virtuous relationship** informs and strengthens

- the Content of challenges to the courts
- Lobbying at policy level to enhance protection and integration
- and ultimately drives deeper **Systemic Change**



1. Angolan Cessation = Angolan ran the risk of being forced to leave SA, after 27 years

ACTION: Through Advocacy Angolan community made a significant step forward in their fight to continue living in South Africa

OUTCOME: Home Affairs recently extended validity of their existing permits to 30th September 2021 and opened application process for a longer term visa that for the first time includes spouses, children and those former refugees previously excluded

CHALLENGE: application system (accessible, effective?)

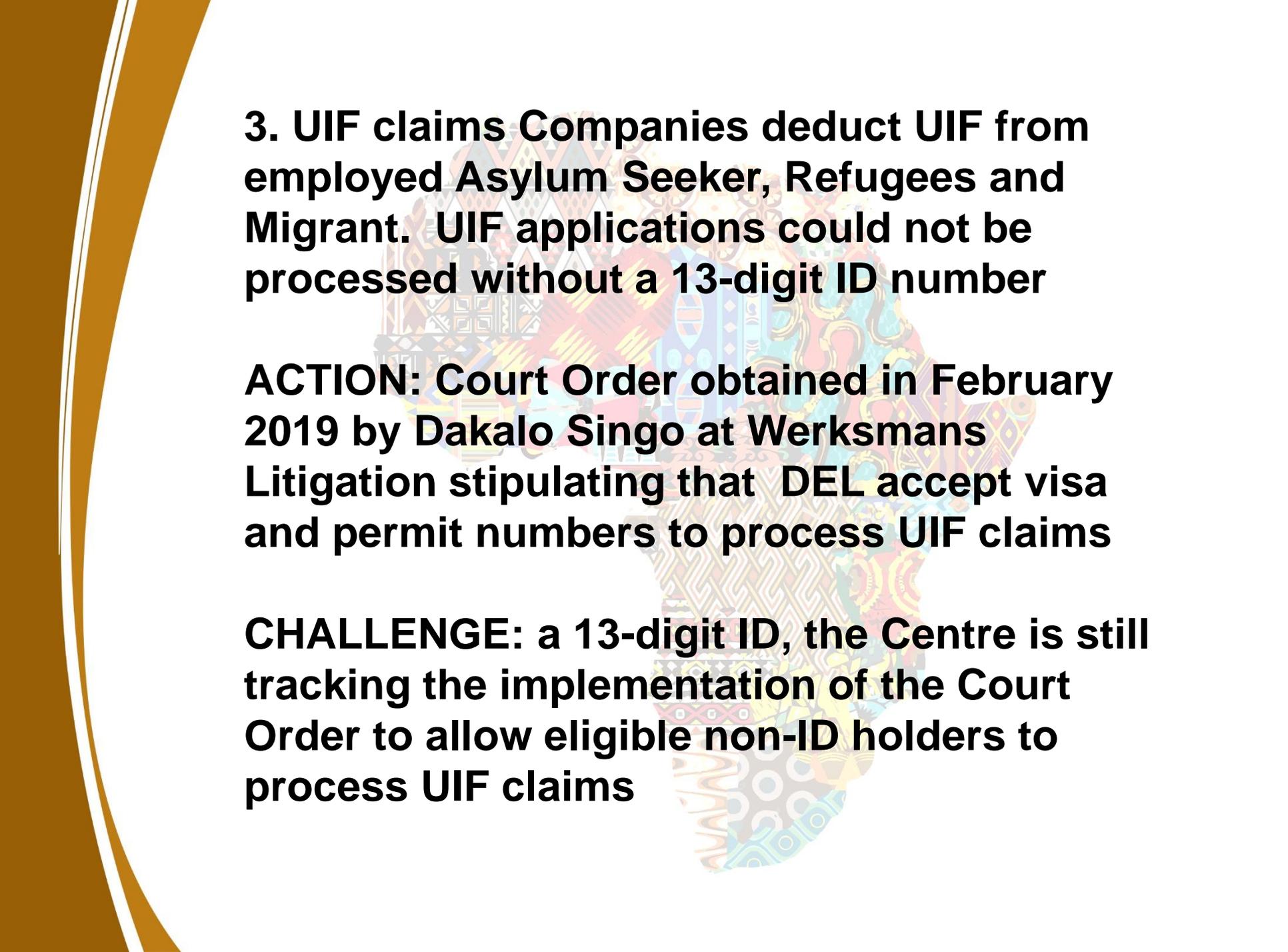
2. Extend SRD Grant to Asylum Seekers and Special Permit holders during Covid19 (available to Refugees)

ACTION: Urgent Litigation

OUTCOME

- **19th June the Scalabrini Centre won a Court Order that opened the path to apply for the Covid19 SRD grant with the same eligibility criteria as citizens and Refugees**
- **By August 2020 1133 applications successfully being submitted**
- **No payments were processed before mid February 2021, but after Advocacy contacted DSD, and SASSA grant, payments were finally processed**

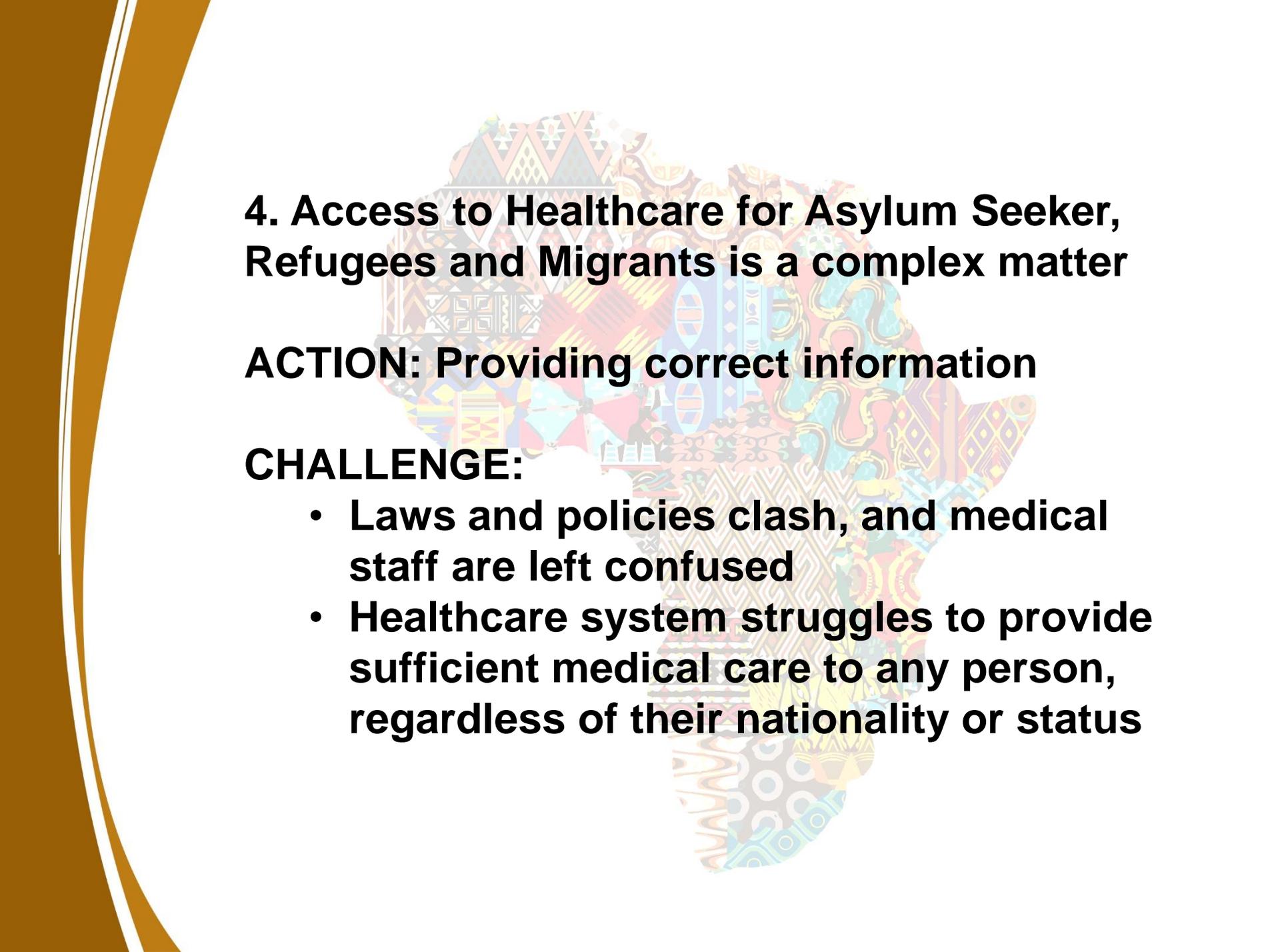
CHALLENGE: Permit verification and 13-digit ID number, payments



3. UIF claims Companies deduct UIF from employed Asylum Seeker, Refugees and Migrant. UIF applications could not be processed without a 13-digit ID number

ACTION: Court Order obtained in February 2019 by Dakalo Singo at Werksmans Litigation stipulating that DEL accept visa and permit numbers to process UIF claims

CHALLENGE: a 13-digit ID, the Centre is still tracking the implementation of the Court Order to allow eligible non-ID holders to process UIF claims



4. Access to Healthcare for Asylum Seeker, Refugees and Migrants is a complex matter

ACTION: Providing correct information

CHALLENGE:

- **Laws and policies clash, and medical staff are left confused**
- **Healthcare system struggles to provide sufficient medical care to any person, regardless of their nationality or status**

5. Access to Education

The Department of Basic Education and the Provincial Department are acting unconstitutionally in not permitting children to continue receiving education in public schools purely by reason of the fact that they lack identification documents. Phakamisa Judgment

ACTION: furthering impact of Phakamisa Judgment by issuing the DBE Circular to all clients suffering from this exclusion and directly to any school principal

OUTCOME: This resulted in the enrolment of a backlog of undocumented learners who had previously been denied placement in schools

6. English School & Employment Access

ACTION

Providing skills and access to the Labour Market, a bridge between formal and informal economy

OUTCOME

- **Language courses: 1000 students a year 90% improved communication**
- **Work Placements: about 350/400 migrants a year find employment in a variety of fields (69 restaurant and catering 11 chefs, 30 migrants house assistance, 18 drivers, 17 security, 14 nail care and 10 general workers and some highly qualified job such translator, teacher, interior designer)**
- **Small Business: thriving micro enterprises is a sector where Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Migrants display much initiative**

CHALLENGE:

Most contracts are temporary

Most businesses backyard and need funding for expansion

OVERALL CHALLENGES

The ease and pathway of the life of a migrant in the host country is determined by their legal status, the reason for migrating is almost irrelevant

- **No legal entry path for low skilled economic migrant in most receiving countries**
- **Asylum only option, need for channels allowing low skilled workers to legally enter (to protect the integrity of the Asylum System)**
- **Loopholes and technicalities further reduce opportunities at/after entry**
- **Migrants spend months/years in the informal economy relying on own networks and NGOs**
- **Assisting migrants is costly which is a significant drawback (1.7 to 2.9 billion euro in Italy)**
- **Covid-19 related job loss and 4IR acceleration is a burning issue. Impact?**

NGOs RESPONSE

Scalabrini experience shows

1. How Practice and Research feed into each other to overcome loopholes and hurdles in the implementing machinery
2. That NGOs play a crucial role in the life of Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Migrants, as they facilitate access to documents, work, health, education and social protection
3. And implement *effective strategies* and *good practices* to create **SYSTEMIC CHANGE** that should be replicated



Thank you