

FACTSHEET: IMPORTANCE OF HUMANITARIAN AID

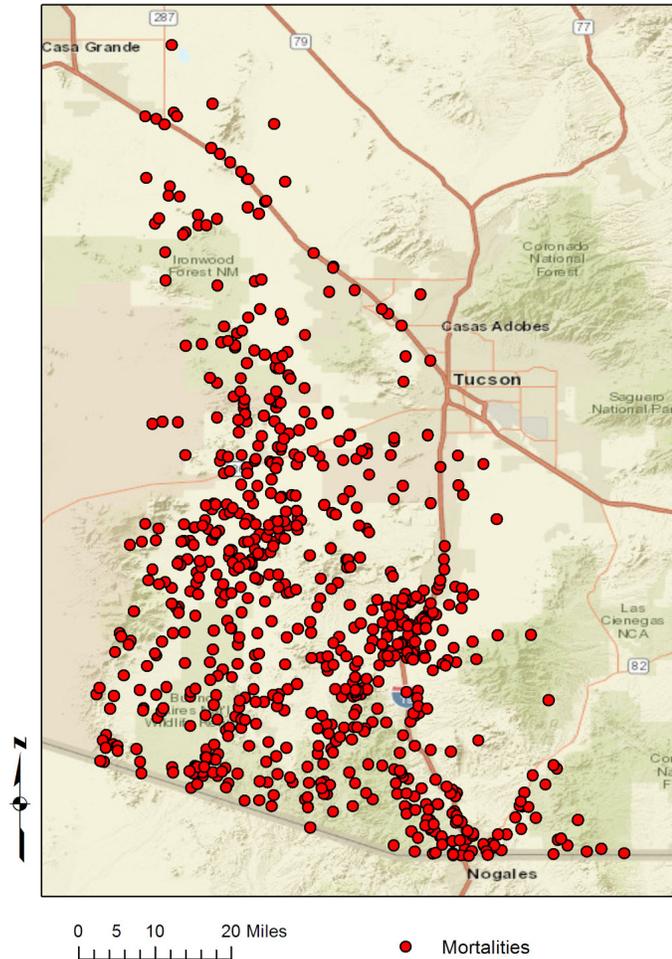
The purpose of humanitarian aid is to save lives, alleviate suffering, and maintain human dignity after or during human-made crises and natural disasters.

Why does No More Deaths leave water in the desert?

There is a crisis of death and disappearance in the US-Mexico borderlands. Over the last two decades, the remains of at least 7,000 people have been recovered from the United States borderlands.¹ Many more have disappeared. The cause of death in the majority of these cases is exposure to the elements and dehydration from lack of access to water.

Medical professionals recommend that border crossers drink between 5-12 liters (1.3 - 3.1 gallons) of water daily depending on conditions.² However, because water sources are scarce, border crossers rely on water they can carry, which is rarely more than 7 liters (2 gallons).

The entire journey can be anywhere from 3 days to nearly a month. Given the staggering length and ruggedness of the journey, it is physically impossible for anyone attempting to cross the border on foot to carry enough water or food supplies to survive. As a result, hundreds of people die each year in the desert of Pima county alone.



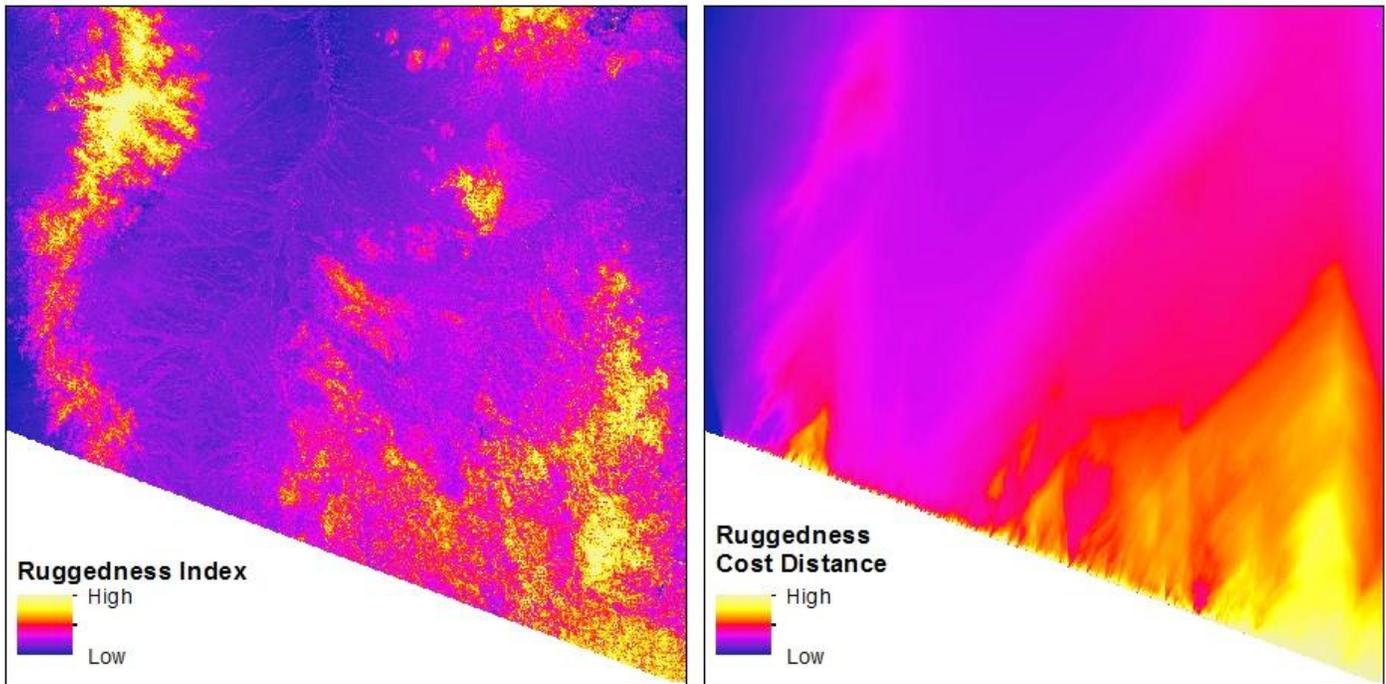
Map of study area with recovered remains, 2012-2015



Since 2002, humanitarian-aid volunteers have worked to deliver caches of water and food to the most arid and remote regions of the Southern Arizona desert. **From 2012-2015, No More Deaths alone distributed over 31,558 gallon jugs of water to migration trails in the Southern Arizona desert.** Over 86% of this water was used. This high level of water use underscores the urgent need for access to water in the borderlands.

¹ <https://missingmigrants.iom.int/migrant-deaths-us-mexico-border>

² Montain, S. J., Ely, M., Santee, W. R., & Friedl, K. (2010). Water requirements and soldier hydration. Washington, DC: Borden Institute.

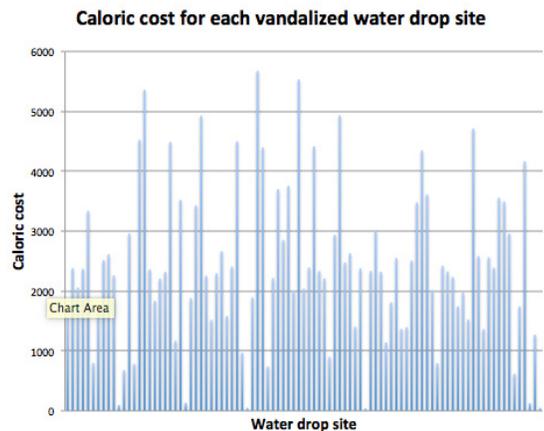


How hard is the journey?

The 1994 Border Patrol’s policy of Prevention Through Deterrence bolstered the border with more segments of border wall, more armed agents and checkpoints, and heightened surveillance technology. In Southern Arizona, the effect has been to funnel border crossers into an extremely arid, sparsely populated region with few natural water sources. In the summer months this area of the desert regularly experiences temperatures over 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

Volunteers regularly find gallons vandalized and slashed. The maps above show the ruggedness of the terrain in the Arivaca corridor, and the physiological difficulty of crossing this terrain on foot. We applied these measurements of ruggedness and caloric cost to the water-drop sites that are most consistently vandalized. We find an average caloric expenditure to arrive at each vandalized water-drop site of 2390.433 calories, with a range of caloric cost going to as high as 5677.548 calories.³

Through analysis of ruggedness and water vandalism, we observed that water is *vandalized in locations where its impact is likely to be lethal*— where individuals have already experienced considerable physiological stress, based on the terrain and environment they have traversed.



To download the full report: www.thedisappearedreport.org
For more information on No More Deaths: www.nomoredeaths.org
For more information on La Coalición de Derechos Humanos: derechoshumanosaz.net

³ This calculation again assumes a direct and linear route of transit from the international border to the specific water-drop site to which the figure applies, rather than the additional distance travelled to circumnavigate impediments.