GLOBAL MIGRATION INDICATORS

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Insights from the Global Migration Data Portal:
www.migrationdataportal.org

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GLOBAL MIGRATION INDICATORS

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ACRONYMS

CTDC	Counter Trafficking Data Collective
FRONTEX	European Border and Coast Guard Agency
GMDAC	Global Migration Data Analysis Centre
IDAC	International Data Alliance for Children on the Move
IDC	International Data Corporation
IDMC	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMPALA	International Migration Policy and Law Analysis
IOM	International Organization for Migration
KNOMAD	Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development
LMIC	Low- and middle-income countries
MGI	Migration Governance Indicators
ODI	Overseas Development Institute
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PARIS21	Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UN	United Nations
UN DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
USD	United States Dollar
WHO	World Health Organization

CONTENTS

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0 | OVERVIEW

135 million
WOMEN

40.9 million
CHILDREN

26 million
REGISTERED
REFUGEES

258 million
INTERNATIONAL
MIGRANTS

6 million
INTERNATIONAL
STUDENTS

164 million
MIGRANT WORKERS

1 BACKGROUND

The 2021 Global Migration Indicators report summarizes recent migration trends based on the frequently updated data on the Global Migration Data Portal. It is compiled by the International Organization for Migration's Global Migration Data Analysis Centre and is scheduled to be updated periodically. This report is an update of the first Global Migration Indicators report in 2018, which can be found here, and also includes a new section on COVID-19 data on migration.

The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020 has had a profound effect on migration and human mobility. Extensive mobility restrictions have been implemented within and between countries in order to prevent the spread of the virus, leading to major changes in mobility patterns worldwide. Beyond these shifts in flows, migrants play an important role in many sectors vital to addressing the COVID-19 pandemic but are also exposed to higher risks of contracting the virus. The pandemic has also exacerbated existing socioeconomic vulnerabilities for many migrants. Collecting, analysing and using data on migrants has become increasingly important in light of these factors, including to advocate for their inclusion in national vaccination plans to leave no one behind. However, at the same time it has become increasingly difficult for national statistical offices to collect migration data due to the pandemic. Several countries around the world have delayed or postponed their surveys and censuses due to the pandemic (World Bank, 2020; Black and Sievers, 2021; African Union, 2020).

In addition to the need for better data on human mobility in light of the ongoing pandemic, improving migration data is especially important at a time when States have committed to facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration. In September 2015, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. For the first time, this recognizes international migration as an integral part of global sustainable development. 11 out of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs) contain targets and/or indicators that are directly relevant to migration. For example, target 10.7 calls on States to "facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies", and others refer to specific migration topics such as remittances and human trafficking. Beyond this, many more targets are indirectly relevant to migration and in these, migration is a cross-cutting theme. Finally, the Agenda's core principle to "leave no one behind" is a clear call to include all migrants in the implementation of the SDGs. Overall, migration data needs have increased as a result of the SDGs, as countries will need to provide comparable data across migration topics to monitor progress on targets, as well as improve disaggregation of all data by migratory status.

However, insufficient funding of data and statistics remains an obstacle for countries, according to the 2020 SDG progress report. International funding for data and statistics is about half the level it needs to be to monitor SDG implementation (PARIS21, 2020).

On 19 September 2016, Heads of State and Government from the 193 UN Member States came together at the UN General Assembly to discuss topics related to migration and refugees at the global level. This resulted in the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, which recognized the need for a comprehensive approach to migration. By adopting the Declaration, UN Member States agreed to cooperate on the elaboration of a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and a Global Compact for Refugees. The Global Compact for Migration was adopted at an intergovernmental conference on international migration on 10 December 2018 in Morocco. The final version of the Compact sets out 23 objectives for safe, orderly and regular migration – the first of which commits UN Member States to "collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for

evidence-based policies," and to develop a global programme on migration data capacity-building. The third objective describes the need to "Provide adequate and timely information at all stages of migration," and overall the need to improve data is recognised across all objectives. Though follow-up mechanisms for the Global Compact for Migration have yet to be clearly defined, it is clear that migration data will need to improve across topics, and that migration data capacity-building will be in sharper focus in the years to come.

In addition to traditional migration data sources, there is a huge amount of mobility data being produced that is not fully captured by national statistical offices. The International Data Corporation estimates that the world will generate 175 zettabytes – equivalent to 175 trillion gigabytes – of data by 2025, up from a total of 33 zettabytes in 2018 (IDC, 2020). Experts from the European Commission, for example have stressed the "extraordinary opportunity" that the enormous amounts of privately-held data present for policymakers (European Commission, 2021). However, as discussed in the section on big data below, innovative data sources pose significant challenges in the field of migration, though there is huge potential to leverage these new data sources to improve our understanding of migration.

The SDGs and the Global Compact for Migration provide frameworks and overall a strong momentum towards improving the notoriously weak evidence base on international migration. This Global Migration Indicators report aims to provide a baseline for these processes by illustrating what data are currently available at the international level. The report is a snapshot of what we know about migration and its recent trends, across 19 key migration themes of relevance to the SDGs and the Global Compact for Migration.

2 MIGRATION DATA SOURCES: AVAILABILITY AND LIMITATIONS

Accurate and comparable data on international migration are especially limited. Key shortcomings include limited availability, quality and frequency of data. First, many countries do not collect or report information on basic migration statistics, and include only a limited number of questions about migration in their censuses. Further, there are sometimes very limited data on important migration topics, such as migration linked to environmental change, irregular and return migration. Second, most international statistics on migration are based on data collected at the national level, which often creates issues regarding comparability and harmonization of data. This is because how data are collected and how migrants are defined varies substantially across UN Member States. Third, as many international migration datasets are released on a yearly basis or less frequently, some migration trends can only be observed retrospectively. This time lag can affect policy making as well as public awareness and debates about migration, as practitioners require timely and up-to-date data.

National sources of migration data can be broadly grouped into three categories – statistical, administrative and innovative data often arising from the use of digital devices – see Figure 1 for an overview of these. Each of these has distinct advantages and disadvantages. Regarding statistical data sources, for example, censuses are universal and often comparable across countries. On the other hand, they are costly and as many countries conduct censuses only every 10 years and often at different times, data can easily be outdated and hard to compare globally. Also, they do not always capture certain populations of interest such as asylum seekers, refugees and irregular migrants. Surveys can be more targeted to migrants and can also yield valuable migration information on socioeconomic characteristics of migrants and can be relatively timely. However, their sample size and coverage can be limited. Administrative data sources were not set up specifically to collect data on migrants, but can often yield some relevant information nonetheless. These sources include border data collection mechanisms, visas, residence and/or work permits. However, comparability across countries of these data can be limited, as they often use different terminology and are often not consolidated at the national level. Finally, an increasing amount of migration-related information is

Figure 1. Key sources of migration data

TYPE OF SOURCE	EXAMPLES OF SOURCE
Statistical Collect data for the creation of official statistics	Censuses Household surveys
Administrative Collect data primarily to support administrative processes rather than to produce official statistics	Visa, residence-, work-permit Border data collection system
Innovative Emerging sources of migration data	Big data (e.g. social media) IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix

generated through innovative sources such as "big data." Big data are collected in real time, can generate information on hard-to-reach migrant populations and can provide valuable insights, for example into forced displacement. However, before big data can be used regularly by policymakers, further efforts are needed to develop methodologies and address data protection concerns (see section 3.18 on big data for migration).

Data on some migration topics tend to be particularly scarce, representing a data gap. A data gap may mean that data are not collected or accessible, incomplete, scattered across various sources, not disaggregated appropriately, and/or not comparable across countries. See Figure 2 for more.

Figure 2. Global data gaps

Global data gaps

Good data on migration are essential for countries to effectively manage migration and ensure that migrants are not left behind. Yet significant data gaps exist on a variety of migration topics.

Data gaps can mean data that are

Not collected or accessible   Incomplete   Scattered across various sources   Not disaggregated   Not comparable among countries

More data are collected on these migration topics:

Ratification of international conventions
Students
Migrant stocks
Human trafficking
Remittances

Fewer data are collected on these migration topics:

Irregular migration
Migration flows
Migrant health
Missing migrants
Impact of migration policies
Migrant integration
Recruitment costs
Smuggling
Return migration
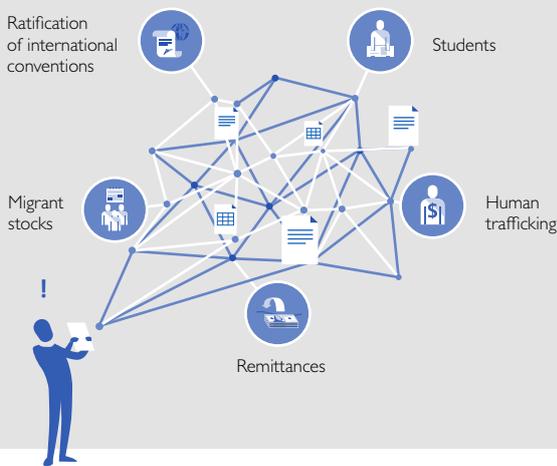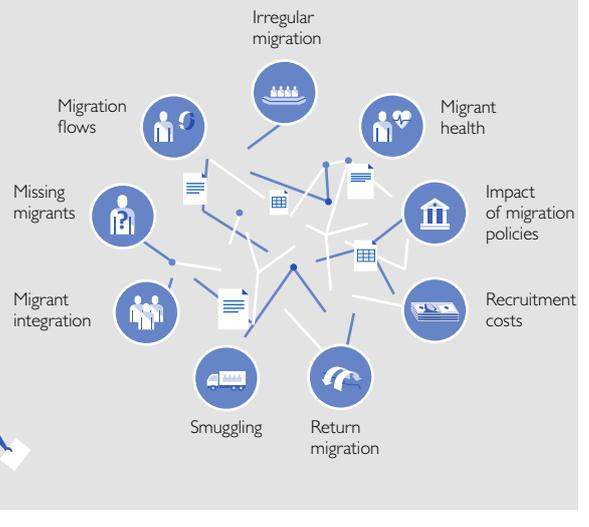
Source: Adapted from the Migration Data Portal.

MAJOR PROVIDERS OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION STATISTICS

A growing number of entities at the international level provide migration-relevant data.

Gallup	Public opinion on migration and migration intentions (click here)
IDMC	Internal displacement due to conflicts and disasters (click here)
ILO	Migrant workers and recruitment costs (click here)
IOM	Migration governance and missing migrants. Operational data on various topics including voluntary return, resettlement, human trafficking, internal migrant flows and displacement, and more (click here)
OECD	Migration flows, labour market outcomes of immigrants and more (click here)
Pew Research Center	Public opinion on migration (click here)
UN DESA	International migration stocks and flows (click here)
UNESCO	Student mobility (click here)
UNHCR	Asylum applications, refugees, resettlement and more on populations "of concern" to UNHCR (click here)
UNICEF	Child migration (click here)
UNODC	Human trafficking and migrant smuggling (click data)
World Bank	Remittances, remittance costs and migrant stocks (click here)

IOM's **Global Migration Data Portal** compiles various migration data across topics at the national, regional and global level and serves as a unique access point to statistics from diverse sources.

3 | KEY TRENDS

20 KEY TRENDS ON MIGRATION
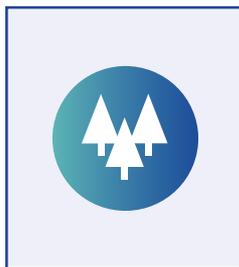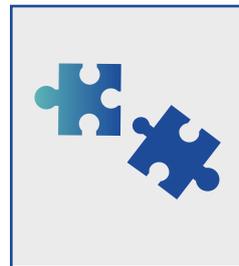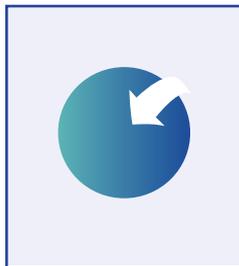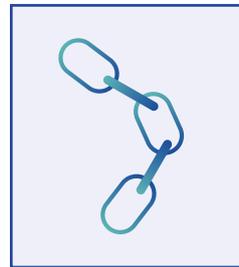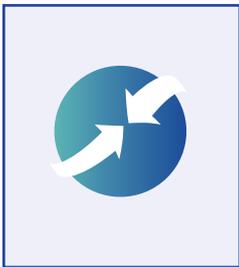
1. MIGRANT POPULATION (STOCKS)

281 million

INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS
were counted globally in 2020 – people residing in a country other than their country of birth. This represented 3.6% of the world's total population.

2. MIGRANT FLOWS

35–40 million people

MIGRATE EVERY 5 YEARS,
according to estimates based on changes to global UN DESA migrant stock data over time. Statistics on annual international migration flows worldwide are not available, as data are available for only a limited set of countries.

3. MIGRANT VULNERABILITIES
DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

3 million+

MIGRANTS WERE STRANDED
by pandemic-related mobility restrictions in 2020 according to IOM estimates. Migrants are widely considered to be more vulnerable to the spread of COVID-19, though global data is not available.

4. MIGRANT CONTRIBUTION
DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

33% of doctors

WERE FOREIGN BORN
in the United Kingdom in 2016. Migrants make up a large proportion of the workforce in sectors important for the pandemic response. Among the 20 OECD countries with the highest number of COVID-19 cases in early 2021, at least 7 countries depend heavily on foreign-born workers in the health-care sector.

5. LABOUR MIGRANTS

169 million

MIGRANT WORKERS
were counted globally in 2019, according to ILO figures.

6. INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

6 million

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
were counted in 2019, up from 2 million in 2000.

7. REMITTANCES

USD 540 billion

IN REMITTANCES
were sent to low- and middle-income countries in 2020. Though remittance flows decreased due to the outbreak of COVID-19, they remained higher than foreign direct investments and overseas development assistance combined.

8. DISPLACEMENT

82.4 million

INDIVIDUALS
were forcibly displaced worldwide due to persecution, conflict, generalized violence, human rights violations, or other reasons by the end of 2020. Most of these people, 48 million, were internally displaced.

9. REFUGEES

26.4 million

REGISTERED REFUGEES
were counted in 2020.

10. RESETTLEMENT

34,400

REFUGEES WERE RESETTLED
to third countries during 2020, a decrease of nearly two-thirds compared to 2019.

11. UNSAFE MIGRATION

40,000+

DEATHS DURING MIGRATION

were recorded by IOM between 2014 and 2020, including more than 4,200 in 2020.

12. HUMAN TRAFFICKING

40.3 million

VICTIMS OF MODERN SLAVERY

were estimated in 2016. Of those, 5 million may have crossed an international border.

13. RETURN MIGRANTS

42,181

RETURNS

were assisted by IOM in 2020, a 43% decrease compared to 2019 due to COVID-related restrictions.

14. MIGRANT CONTRIBUTIONS

USD 6.7 trillion

CONTRIBUTED BY MIGRANT

to global GDP estimated in 2015 – 9.4% of the total global GDP in that year.

15. CHILDREN

12%

OF THE GLOBAL MIGRANT STOCK

in 2020 were children, but people under 18 comprise 50% of the refugee population and 42% of IDPs as of 2019.

16. WOMEN

135 million

WOMEN

are migrants as of 2020, comprising just under half of the global international migrant stock.

17. ENVIRONMENTAL DISPLACEMENT

30.7 million

**PEOPLE WERE
NEWLY DISPLACED**

in 135 nations were newly displaced by sudden-onset disasters within their own countries in 2020.

18. PUBLIC OPINION

PUBLIC OPINION ON MIGRANTS DECLINED

from 5.34 in 2016 to 5.21 in 2019 according to Gallup's Migrant Acceptance Index, indicating the world is, on average, less accepting of migrants.

19. POTENTIAL MIGRATION

21– 44%

POTENTIAL INCREASE IN IMMIGRATION FLOWS

to the European Union by 2030, compared to the average annual flows recorded between 2008 and 2017. No global estimates of potential migration are available.

20. MIGRATION DATA CAPACITY

87% of countries

ASKED ABOUT COUNTRY OF BIRTH

75% asked for citizenship and 50% for the year or period of arrival in their 2010 censuses.
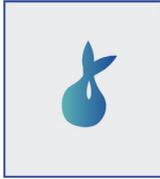
3.1
MIGRANT POPULATION –
STOCKS AND FLOWS

At mid-year 2020, the stock of international migrants – the total number of people residing in a country other than their country of birth – was estimated at 281 million compared to about 173 million at mid-year 2000, and 153 million at mid-year 1990 (UN DESA, 2020). Despite the increase in absolute numbers, the share of international migrants in proportion to the world's population has remained relatively stable between mid-year 1990 and mid-year 2020 at around 2.9 to 3.6 per cent. However, COVID-19 is believed to have decreased the global migrant stock: early estimates suggest a decrease of nearly 2 million international migrants globally between mid-2019 and mid-2020 (UN DESA, 2020).

Based on changes in migrant stock data over time, an estimated 35-40 million people worldwide migrate every five years (Abel, 2016). However, data on migration flows – people entering and exiting a certain country per year – are generally available only for a few countries. After the decline recorded in 2017 largely due to the drop in the number of humanitarian migrant inflows, migration flows to OECD countries started to rise again in 2018 and amounted to about 5.3 million new permanent immigrants (OECD, 2019).

However, migration flows to OECD countries are expected to reach a historical low due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 (OECD, 2020). Initial estimates of migration flows in 2020 indicate that the number of new residency permits granted to migrants decreased by 46 per cent on average across OECD countries; this has been attributed to a decrease in flows – notably among international students – and the COVID-related economic decline (ibid.).

GLOBAL RELEVANCE

Data on stocks and flows of international migrants are necessary to understand migration trends of any kind. These data are the cornerstone of any analysis of more specific data on the migration-relevant SDG targets and Global Compact for Migration objectives.

RELEVANT SDGS:

Target 10.7: Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

RELEVANT GLOBAL COMPACT OBJECTIVES:

Objective 1: Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies

Objective 3: Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration

Cross-cutting themes: *international cooperation and whole-of-government approach*

Figure 3. International migrants at mid-year 2020

58.7 million
NORTHERN AMERICA

86.7 million
EUROPE

85.6 million
ASIA

LATIN AMERICA
AND THE CARIBBEAN
14.8 million

AFRICA
25.4 million

OCEANIA
9.4 million

TOTAL NUMBER OF
ESTIMATED INTERNATIONAL
MIGRANTS

281 million

100 m
90 m
80 m
70 m
60 m
50 m
40 m
30 m
20 m
10 m

0–19   20–39   40–59   60–75+

39 YEARS OLD
MEDIAN AGE

15%
WERE BELOW 20 YEARS OLD

73%
WERE OF WORKING AGE
(BETWEEN 20 AND 64 YEARS)

12%
WERE 65 YEARS AND OLDER

Sources: UN DESA, 2020; UNHCR, 2021; ILO, 2018; UNESCO, 2017.

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FIND OUT MORE

1. UN DESA, 2020 (click here).
2. OECD, 2019 (click here).
3. Global Migration Data Portal (click here for stocks, click here for flows).

3.2
MIGRATION DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The outbreak of COVID-19 in early 2020 has profoundly affected human mobility, though data on COVID and migration are limited. Global migration fell dramatically in 2020 after years of growth, with UN DESA estimating that the global migrant stock fell by about 2 million globally, a decrease of approximately 27 per cent in the growth expected between mid-2019 and mid-2020 (Laczko, 2021). In addition, IOM (2020) estimated that more than 3 million migrants, including seasonal workers and international students, became stranded and unable to return to their countries of origin due to COVID travel restrictions. Many countries also reported a significant decline in irregular migration in 2020 – across Europe, for example, the number of migrants arriving on major irregular routes fell by 13 per cent in 2020 compared to 2019, representing the lowest number of irregular arrivals recorded since 2013 (FRONTEX, 2021).

Despite COVID-related mobility restrictions, however, migrants continued to embark on dangerous irregular journeys. In the year from March 2020 to February 2021, more than 5,100 migrants were reported missing or dead (IOM, 2021a), with some routes actually seeing an increase in lives lost. For example, the overseas crossing to the Spanish Canary Islands was marked by nearly 880 deaths in 2020, a dramatic increase over the 200 or fewer recorded annually in any year priors.

The data available on COVID-19 cases among migrant groups shows that migrants are more vulnerable to the spread of the virus than other groups. For example in Singapore, more than 95 per cent of cases confirmed by the Ministry of Health as of June 2020 were of migrants, with more than 91 per cent of all cases linked to crowded dormitory housing as of February 2021. Migrants, especially undocumented immigrants, do not have equal access to health care in many countries, with just 28 nations providing access to COVID-related health services worldwide (WHO, 2021a). Lack of access to COVID-19 vaccines is also an issue, with just 28 and 45 per cent of countries including irregular migrants and refugees in practice as part their national vaccination plans, respectively, as of May 2021 (IOM, 2021b).

The outbreak of COVID-19[1] has also meant an increase in anti-migrant sentiment, despite the fact that many migrants are considered to be "key workers" employed in essential sectors such as health care. In a survey of more than 30,000 migrants in 170 countries conducted by WHO (2021b), nearly 30 per cent of respondents aged 20-29 felt that anti-migrant discrimination had worsened. For example, Human Rights Watch (2020) reported 267 hate crimes against Asian immigrants in the United Kingdom between January and March 2020, a figure higher than all incidents documented in 2018 and 2019 combined.

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[1] See section 3.5 on remittances for a discussion of the impact of COVID-19 on the transfer of funds to migrants' countries of origin.

Migrants worldwide play an important role in sectors vital to addressing the COVID-19 pandemic but are also exposed to higher health and socioeconomic risks. Collecting, analysing and using data on migrants has become increasingly important in light of both of these factors, including to ensure migrants' inclusion in national vaccination plans. However, COVID-19, being a recent phenomenon, is not mentioned explicitly in the SDGs or the Global Compact for Migration, although there are several references to health, especially in the SDGs.

Figure 4. Share of foreign-born doctors and nurses in selected OECD countries, 2015–2016

UNITED KINGDOM

33.1
21.9

10   20   30   40   50   %

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

30.2
16.4

10   20   30   40   50   %

GERMANY

20.2
16.2

10   20   30   40   50   %

FRANCE

15.7
6.6

10   20   30   40   50   %

SPAIN

13.7
4

10   20   30   40   50   %

CZECHIA

7.4
2.7

10   20   30   40   50   %

ITALY

4.3
10.7

10   20   30   40   50   %

■ % FOREIGN-BORN DOCTORS   ■ % FOREIGN-BORN NURSES

Sources: OECD, 2019; 2020.   © IOM GMDAC 2021
Note: The OECD countries in this infographic are among the 20 countries with the highest number of confirmed cases globally as of 1 March 2021 (WHO, 2021c).

FIND OUT MORE

1. Global Migration Data Portal (click here).
2. IOM, 2021 (click here).
3. Migration Policy Practice, 2021 (click here).

3.3
LABOUR MIGRATION

There were an estimated 169 million migrant workers globally in 2019, making up nearly five per cent of the global labour force (ILO, 2021). Nearly two-thirds (66.2%) were in the service industry, and well over half (60.6%) of all migrant workers were located in three regions: Europe[2] (24.2%), Northern America (22.1%) and Arab States (14.3%). In the Arab States, more than 41 per cent of the total labour force were migrants, making it the region with the highest proportion of migrant workers.

Among all migrant workers worldwide, an estimated 70 million are women, comprising approximately 41.5 per cent of migrant workers. The estimated 99 million male migrant workers thus outnumber females globally, but with significant regional variation. The vast majority of migrant workers are between 25 and 64 years old, though an estimated 10 per cent are aged 15 to 24 and another 3.6 per cent are 65 or older.

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[2] Excluding Eastern Europe.

GLOBAL RELEVANCE

Limited data are available to monitor certain Global Compact for Migration and SDG-related commitments on labour migration. For example, there are some data to measure SDG indicator 10.7.1 on recruitment costs (see Annex 5.1). However, data are lacking on other key areas of labour migration in the Global Compact for Migration and SDGs. For example, issues such as the Global Compact for Migration's emphasis on facilitating skills recognition and development for migrant workers will be harder to monitor using existing data and will require further development of methodologies.

RELEVANT SDGS:	RELEVANT GLOBAL COMPACT OBJECTIVES:
Target 8.8: Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.	Objective 5: Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration
Indicator 10.7.1: Recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of monthly income earned in country of destination.	Objective 6: Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work
See also Target 8.7 on eradicating forced labour, ending modern slavery and human trafficking.	Objective 18: Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences
	Objective 22: Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits

Figure 5. Distribution of migrant workers in 2019, by region

Breakdown of migrant workers

41.5%
women

58.5%
men

10%
15–24 years old

22.1%
Northern America

32.2%
Europe

3.5%
Latin America
and the Caribbean

169
million
migrant workers
(ILO estimates)

8.1%
Africa

12.6%
Asia*

7.2%
South-East Asia
and the Pacific

14.3%
Arab States
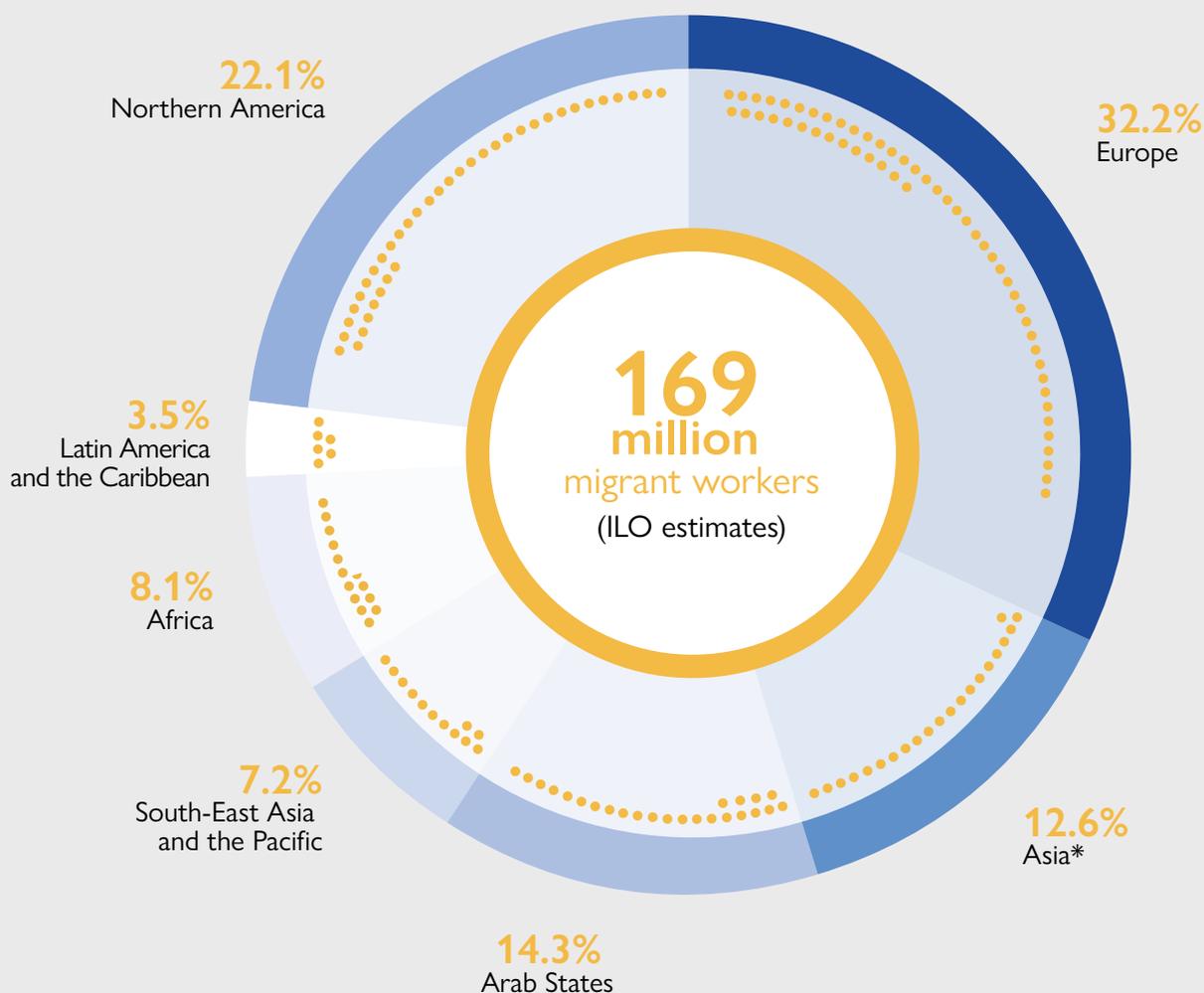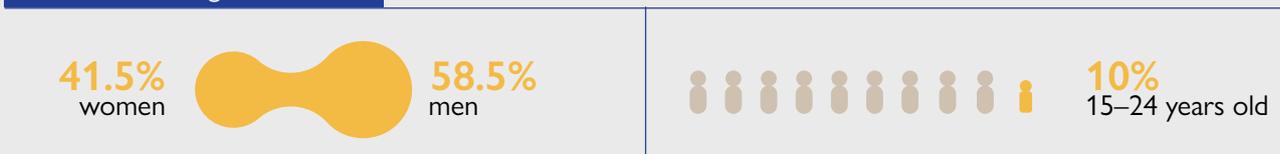
Asia includes Eastern, Central, Southern and Western Asia, excluding Arab States.

● 1 MILLION migrant workers

Source: ILO, 2021.

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FIND OUT MORE

1. ILO, 2021 (click here).
2. ILO, OECD, World Bank, 2015 (click here).
3. Global Migration Data Portal (click here).

3.4
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

There is no global estimate of the number of international students in 2020, defined as "students who have crossed a national or territorial border for the purpose of education and are now enrolled outside their country of origin" (UNESCO, 2016). Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, international students have been affected by closure of university campuses, loss of student jobs and mobility restrictions by both origin and destination countries. Due to the travel restrictions and border closures imposed by governments globally in 2020, some international students were stranded and unable to return to their countries of origin. For example, as of 10 January 2021 an estimated 160,000 students with valid visas to study in Australia were stranded outside of the country due to entry restrictions (Rashid, 2021).

In 2019, there were over 6 million international students, up from 2 million in 2000 (UNESCO, 2021). More than half of these were enrolled in educational programmes in six countries: the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Australia, France, Germany and the Russian Federation. Prominent sending countries of international students include China, India, Germany, the Republic of Korea, Nigeria, France, Saudi Arabia and several Central Asian countries (ibid.).

GLOBAL RELEVANCE

Available data can be used to monitor SDG commitments on student mobility, by measuring money spent on global scholarships. In the context of the Global Compact for Migration objective to expand regular migration pathways, some data on official education programmes and other related pathways can be used and should be built on.

RELEVANT SDGS:

Target 4b: By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries.

See also Targets 4.1, 4.3, 4.6 which can be disaggregated by migratory status for more information on international student mobility.

RELEVANT GLOBAL COMPACT OBJECTIVES:

Objective 5: Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration

Objective 18: Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences

Figure 6. Internationally mobile students, 2000–2020
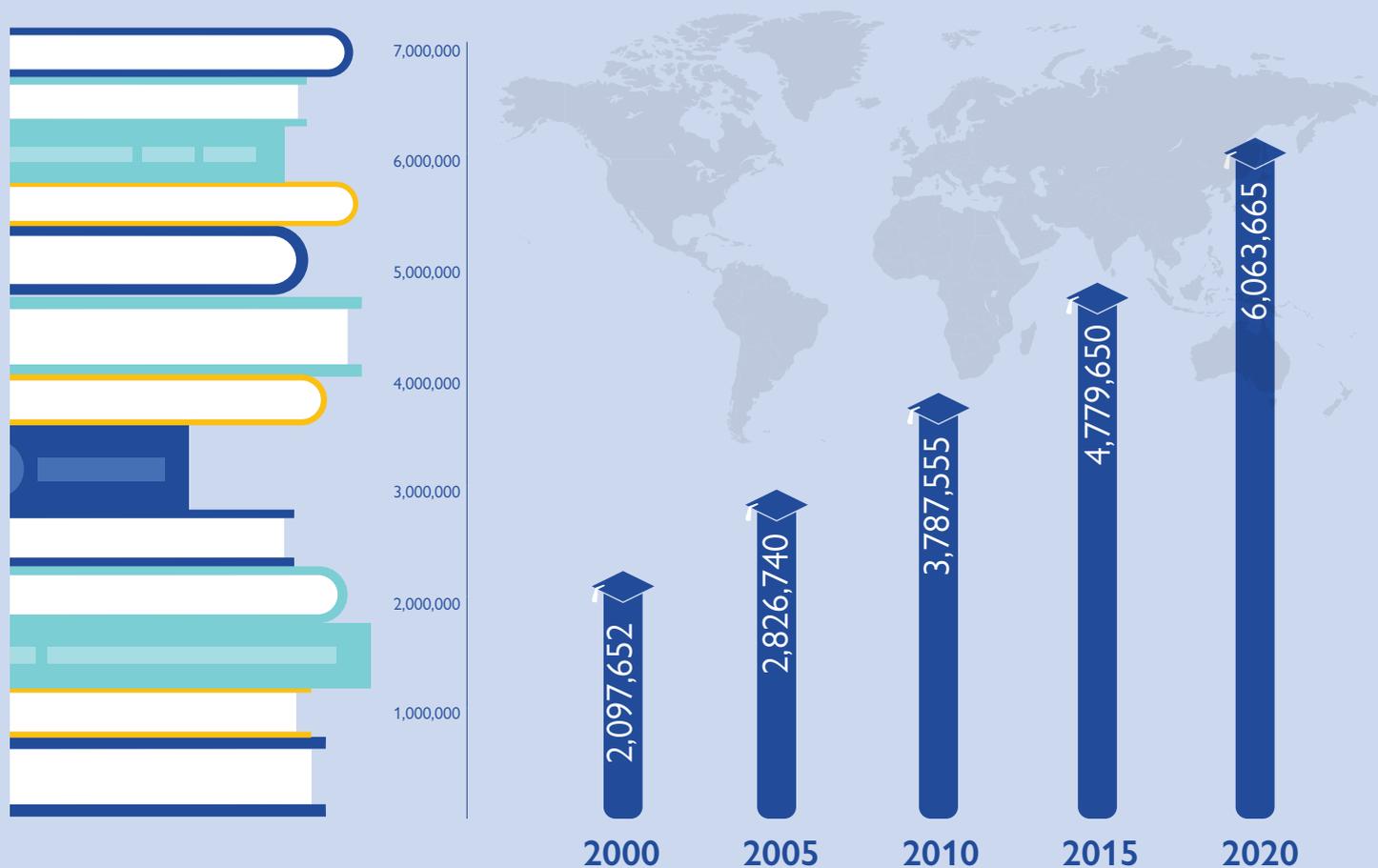
Source: IOM GMDAC based on UNESCO, 2021.

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FIND OUT MORE

1. UNESCO, 2021 (click here).
2. Global Migration Data Portal (click here).

3.5
REMITTANCES

Remittances, which are the money or goods that migrants send back to families and friends in their country of origin, are widely considered to be the most direct and measurable link between migration and development. Though remittances are private funds, in 2020 the USD 540 billion in remittances worldwide far exceeded the sum of foreign direct investments (USD 259 billion) and overseas development assistance (USD 179 billion), according to the World Bank (2021).

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic's negative effect on wages and employment for migrant workers, in April 2020, remittance flows to low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) were projected to fall by about 20 per cent, which would have been the sharpest decrease in recent history. By October 2020, the projected drop in remittances was adjusted to 7.2 per cent. In reality, remittances decreased only by 1.6 per cent to USD 540 billion in 2020, a smaller drop than seen during the 2009 global financial crisis, when flows decreased by nearly 5 per cent (ibid.). The flow of remittances remained steadier than expected because migrants still sent money home by drawing on their savings as well as a shift in sending remittances digitally instead of cash and through more formal channels, among other reasons (ibid.).

In 2020, the top five recipient countries for remittances inflows in current USD were India (83 billion), China (60 billion), Mexico (43 billion), the Philippines (35 billion), and Egypt (30 billion) (ibid.). India has been the largest recipient of remittances since 2008. In terms of remittances as a share of gross domestic product, by contrast, the top five recipients in 2020 were smaller economies: Tonga (38%), Lebanon (33%), Kyrgyzstan (29%), Tajikistan (27%) and El Salvador (24%) (ibid.).

According to the World Bank's Remittance Prices Worldwide Database, the cost of sending money to LMICs remained high at 6.6 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2020. This is well above the SDG target of 3 per cent by 2030.

GLOBAL RELEVANCE

Data are partially available to monitor SDG commitments on remittances. Further data collection and analysis on issues such as migrant financial inclusion could help us understand progress towards relevant Global Compact for Migration objectives.

RELEVANT SDGS:	RELEVANT GLOBAL COMPACT OBJECTIVES:

Target 10.C: By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent.

Indicator 17.3.2: Volume of remittances (in USD) as a proportion of total GDP.

Objective 19: Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries

Objective 20: Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants

Figure 7. Growth of remittances compared to ODA and FDI (2000–2021)

Billion USD

Remittances

Foreign direct investments (FDI)

Overseas development assistance (ODA)
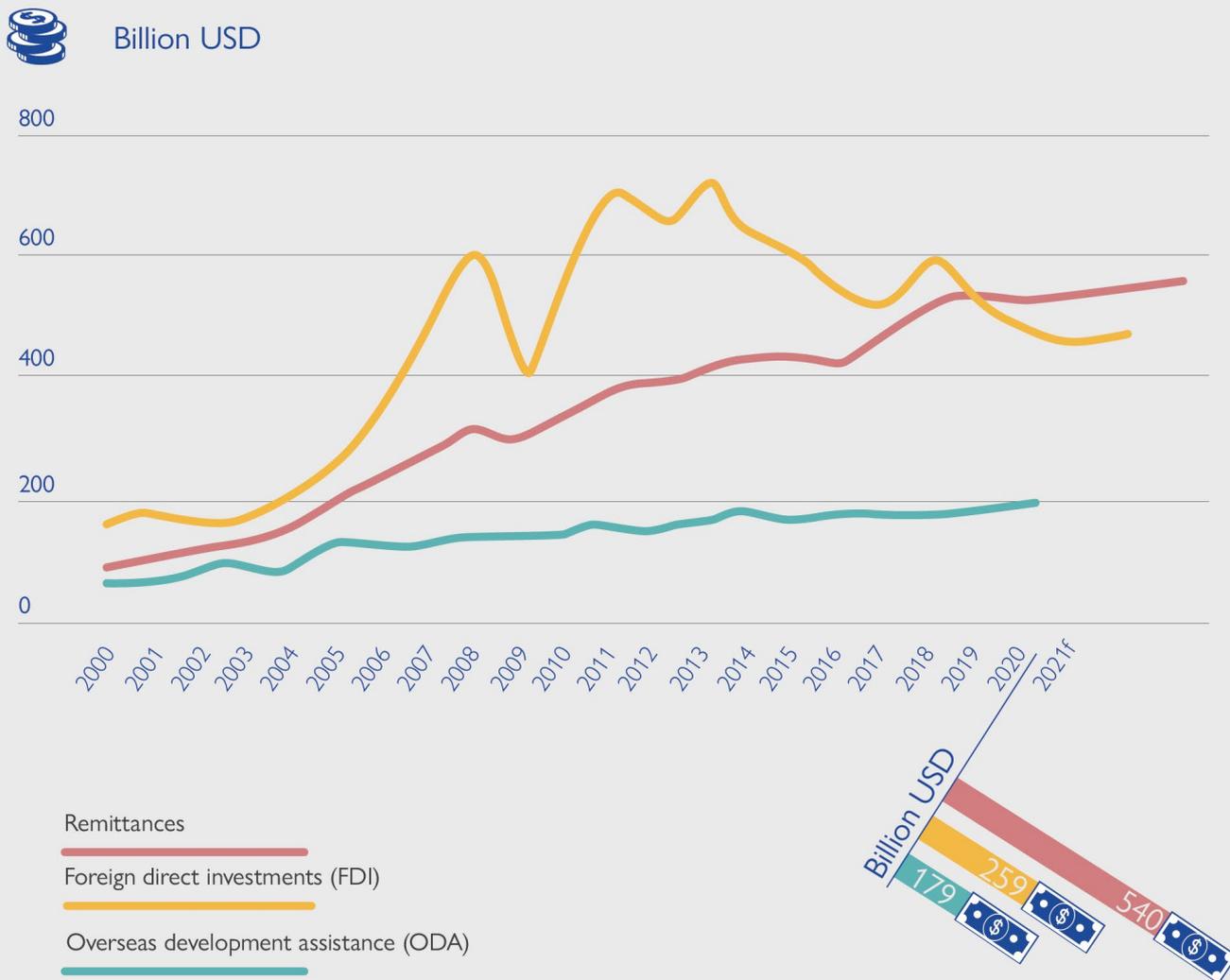
Source: World Bank, 2021.

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FIND OUT MORE

1. World Bank, 2021 (click here).
2. KNOMAD, 2021 (click here).
3. Global Migration Data Portal (click here).

3.6
FORCED MIGRATION, DISPLACEMENT AND RESETTLEMENT

By the end of 2020, 82.4 million individuals were forcibly displaced within countries and across borders worldwide due to persecution, conflict, generalized violence, human rights violations or events seriously disturbing public order. This is more than double the number of forcibly displaced people recorded in 2010 (UNHCR, 2021). The increase in displaced persons between 2010 and 2020 was mainly due to the Syrian conflict, South Sudan's displacement crisis, the conflict in Ukraine, conflicts in sub-Saharan Africa, the flow of Rohingya refugees to Bangladesh, the outflow of Venezuelans across Latin America and the Caribbean and the crisis in Yemen (ibid.). Though the number of forcibly displaced persons increased overall in 2020, there were an estimated 1.5 million fewer arrivals of new refugees and asylum seekers in 2020 compared to 2019, indicating that many of those seeking international protection were stranded due to COVID-related measures (ibid.).

Thirty-seven (37) per cent of UNHCR's total figure of displaced persons for 2020 includes refugees (26.4 million) and asylum seekers (4.1 million); the remaining 61 per cent are internally displaced people (48 million). In addition, at least 3.9 million Venezuelan refugees, asylum seekers and migrants have left their home country due to the ongoing political, human rights and socioeconomic challenges there (ibid.). UNHCR's figure does not include another 40.5 million people across 149 countries who were newly displaced by disasters during 2020 alone, according to IDMC (2021). Most of the new displacements (about 91%) were triggered by conflict and violence, and were recorded in Africa and the Middle East (ibid.) Neither IDMC nor UNHCR's figures include the unknown number of people who remained displaced from their homes due to natural disasters that occurred in previous years.

Based on government statistics provided to UNHCR (2021), 34,400 refugees were resettled to third countries during 2020, a decrease of nearly two-thirds compared to 2019. 107,437 refugees and other individuals in vulnerable situations were resettled to 30 countries under IOM auspices 2019 (IOM, 2020). Note the figure for IOM-assisted resettlement is not directly comparable with UNHCR numbers, as this includes persons participating in (national) humanitarian admission schemes, while UNHCR data largely excludes such groups.

GLOBAL RELEVANCE

Data on forced migration, displacement and resettlement are crucial towards achieving a better understanding of migration governance in the context of SDG Target 10.7, as well as a range of other topics fundamental to the 2030 Agenda and the Global Compact for Migration, such as migration drivers and migrant vulnerabilities.

RELEVANT SDGS:

Target 1.3: Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.

Target 1.5: By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

See also Target 10.7, 11.5, 11.b, 13.1 on safe migration, environmental disasters and climate adaption which are linked to forced displacement.

RELEVANT GLOBAL COMPACT OBJECTIVES:

Objectives 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 22 (see Annex 5.2)

Cross-cutting theme: people-centred

Figure 8. Number of displaced persons worldwide, millions (2011–2020)
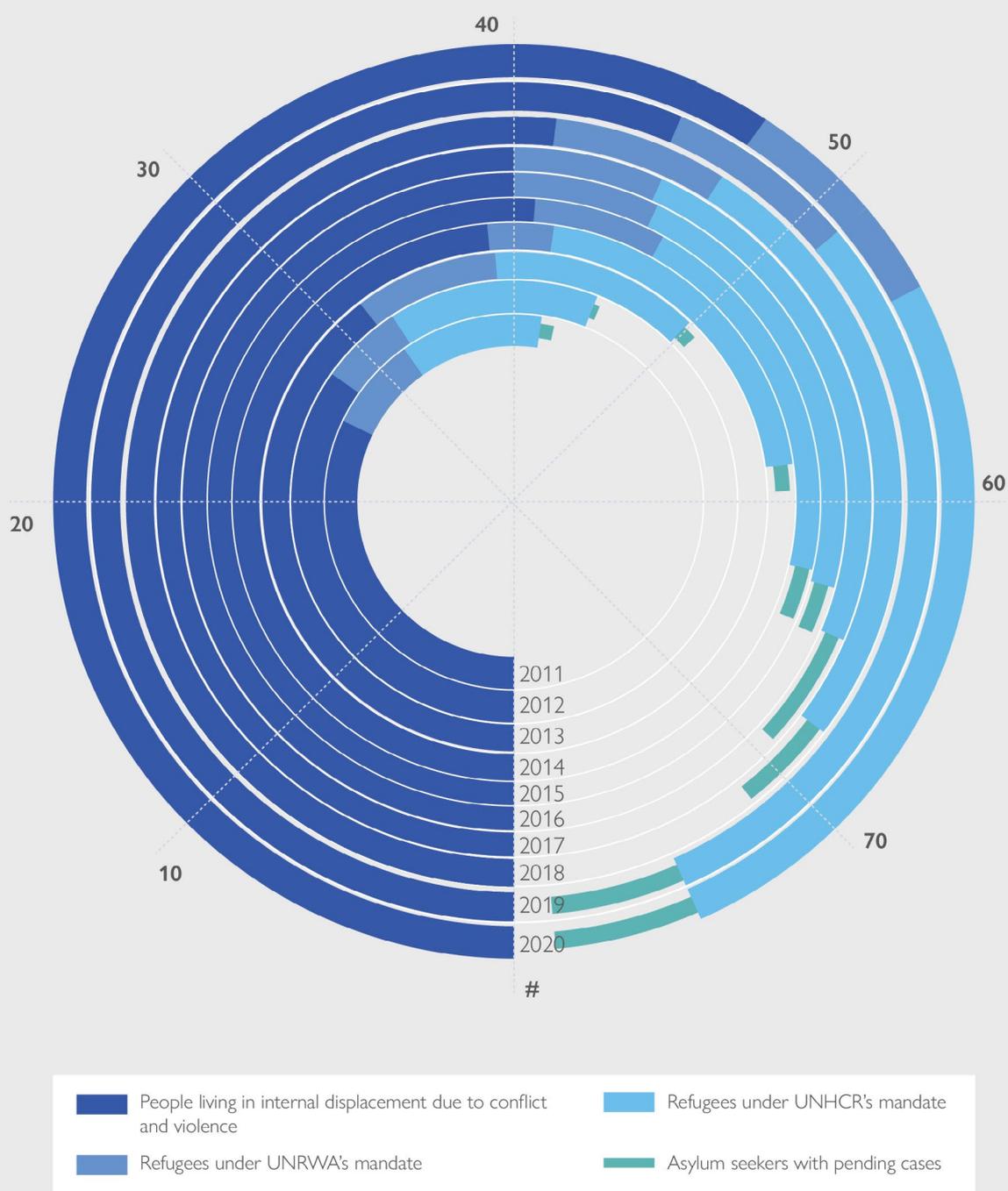
Legend:
- People living in internal displacement due to conflict and violence
- Refugees under UNRWA's mandate
- Refugees under UNHCR's mandate
- Asylum seekers with pending cases

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FIND OUT MORE

1. UNHCR, 2021 (click here).
2. IDMC, 2021 (click here).
3. Global Migration Data Portal (click here).

3.7
IRREGULAR MIGRATION

"Irregular migration" refers to both the movement of people in an undocumented fashion, and the number of migrants whose status may, at any point, be undocumented (Vespe et al., 2017). Reliable estimates of the number of migrants in irregular situations worldwide do not exist at a global level, given the difficulties in estimating numbers of irregular migrants within a country, let alone around the world. Changes in irregular migrant stocks in a country can occur not only due to undocumented migrants entering or leaving the country, but also due to changes in status for migrants already in the country, from undocumented to documented or vice-versa.

Estimates of the irregular migrant population exist for some countries, but as they are based on different definitions and methodologies they are generally not comparable. An estimated 10.5 million undocumented migrants lived in the United States in 2017, according to calculations from the Pew Research Center based on census data from March 2016 (Lopez et. al., 2021). FRONTEX, the European Union's Border and Coast Guard Agency, reported 402,913 detections of persons staying in EU Member States "illegally" (sic.) in 2019, compared to 367,266 in 2018 (FRONTEX, 2020). In 2020, 111,578 attempted crossings of maritime routes to Europe were recorded, including interceptions at sea, deaths and irregular arrivals in Europe via the Mediterranean and Atlantic route to the Spanish Canary Islands, a 41 per cent decrease compared to the 189,384 recorded in 2019 (IOM, 2021).

While issues such as human trafficking and smuggling are often linked to irregular migration, key figures on these topics are discussed separately in sections 3.9 and 3.10, respectively.

GLOBAL RELEVANCE

Measuring migration governance under SDG Target 10.7 and across Global Compact for Migration Objectives entails considering numbers and characteristics of irregular migrants around the world. Further, relevant Global Compact provisions on migrant vulnerabilities call for better data on irregular migrants, as do other objectives on provision of legal identity, smuggling, border management and others.

RELEVANT SDGS:	RELEVANT GLOBAL COMPACT OBJECTIVES:
Target 10.7: Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.	Objective 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 (see Annex 5.2)

Figure 9. Irregular migration

IRREGULAR MIGRATION

There is no universally accepted definition of irregular migration. IOM defines it as "movement that takes place outside the regulatory norms of the sending, transit and receiving country" (IOM, 2011).

A migrant in an irregular situation may be in one or more of the following categories:

IRREGULAR
ENTRY

IRREGULAR
RESIDENCE

IRREGULAR
EMPLOYMENT

Migrants can go *in and out* of irregularity as laws and policies change

Crossing the border

Applying for asylum

IRREGULAR

REGULAR
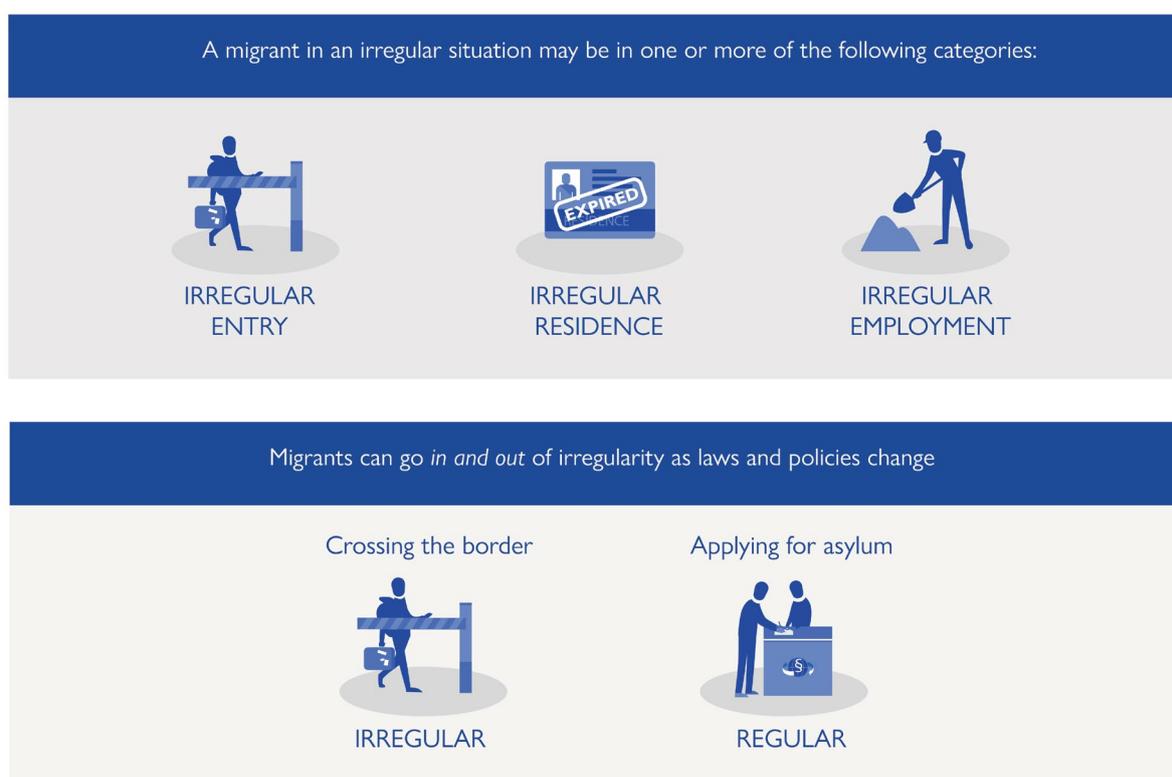
Source: IOM GMDAC elaboration based on Düvell, 2006; Vespe et al., 2017.   © IOM GMDAC 2021

FIND OUT MORE

1. UNODC, 2018 (click here).
2. IOM, 2016 (click here).
3. Global Migration Data Portal (click here).

3.8
MIGRANT DEATHS
AND DISAPPEARANCES

In 2020, IOM's Missing Migrants Project documented the deaths of 4,202 people during migration to international destinations despite significant mobility restrictions imposed in response to COVID-19. In total, more than 45,000 migrant deaths have been documented by IOM since data collection began in 2014, including more than 3,500 in the first nine months of 2021. These figures do not include other types of migrant deaths – such as those linked to hazardous labour – or migrants who are considered missing persons by the families they've left behind, as data on these subjects are extremely scarce.

Though the more than 4,200 people known to have lost their lives on migratory journeys in 2020 was fewer than previous years, some migration routes saw an increase in the number of fatalities. Most notably, at least 878 people died en route to Spain's Canary Islands in 2020, compared to 210 deaths recorded in 2019 and 45 in 2018. At least 2,349 people died within and en route to Europe in 2020, making up the majority of fatalities recorded worldwide; a trend that has continued since 2014, when IOM's Missing Migrants Project began collecting this data. An increase in migrant deaths was also recorded in South America in 2020 compared to previous years, with at least 115 people who lost their lives – almost all of them Venezuelan migrants – compared to fewer than 40 in all previous years.

These figures are likely an underestimate estimate of the true number of deaths during migration worldwide, as documenting such incidents is extremely challenging. Beyond this, data that could identify a missing migrant are extremely scarce, with nearly half (18,623) of all deaths recorded by the Missing Migrants Project involving a person whose remains were never recovered. This has far-reaching effects on the families and communities left behind, with potentially tens or hundreds of thousands of people searching endlessly for a loved one lost during migration.

GLOBAL RELEVANCE

Any efforts to improve migration governance must address the high numbers of missing migrants worldwide. In this context, data on missing migrants are crucial towards monitoring migration governance under SDG Target 10.7 and dedicated Global Compact for Migration Objective 8, and work should continue to strengthen and expand relevant data collection around the world.

RELEVANT SDGS:

Target 10.7: Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

RELEVANT GLOBAL COMPACT OBJECTIVES:

Objective 8: Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants

Cross-cutting themes: people-centred, human rights and international cooperation

Figure 10. Deaths and disappearances recorded during international migration (2014–2020)

Minimum total fatalities during migration

AMERICAS 4,927

4,041 | 616

ASIA* 3,407

1,742 | 1,665

WESTERN ASIA 685

658 | 27

AFRICA 9,938

8,485 | 1,453

EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN 21,945

7,693

14,252

*Asia excludes Western Asia, as this is considered its own region in our dataset

■ Recorded ■ Estimated number of migrants missing and presumed dead

IMPACT ON THOUSANDS OF FAMILIES LEFT BEHIND

Lack of recovery and identification of bodies means families may never know the fate of their lost loved ones

Families often must lead the search themselves due to a lack of adequate legal options

Many families searching for missing migrants report abuse and discrimination by the authorities during their search

Women often face additional hurdles when searching for relatives lost during migration

Source: Missing Migrants Project, 2021.

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FIND OUT MORE

1. IOM's Missing Migrants Project (click here).
2. IOM's *Fatal Journeys* report series (click here).
3. Global Migration Data Portal (click here).

3.9
HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Accurate numbers on the prevalence of human trafficking worldwide are unknown and difficult to estimate. However, according to ILO, IOM and the Walk Free Foundation (2017), there were 40.3 million victims of modern slavery in 2016, including 24.9 million people in forced labour and 15.4 million people in forced marriage. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) reported that 49,032 victims of human trafficking were officially identified in 148 countries in 2018 (UNODC, 2020). The same report estimated that more than 60 per cent of trafficking cases involving cross-border movements reported in 2018 were linked to sexual exploitation, approximately 20 per cent were for forced labour (ibid.). However, these data only include cases that have been both identified by national authorities and reported to UNODC.

The Counter-Trafficking Data Collaborative (CTDC) is the first global repository of primary data on human trafficking. It currently combines the three biggest victims of human trafficking case datasets in the world, resulting in one centralized dataset with information on over 108,000 cases, with 175 nationalities exploited in 164 countries. Among the trafficking cases recorded in the CTDC database between 2002 and 2019, half of the victims identified were under 26; in total nearly a quarter of all detected cases included children. A large proportion of identified victims of trafficking are female, as human trafficking has historically been seen as a crime linked to the sexual exploitation of women.

Overall, the majority of victims included in the CTDC database between 2002 and 2019 were trafficked through official border control points, such as airports and land border checkpoints. Victims of labour exploitation are more likely to be trafficked through official border control points, while victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation account for more cases crossing borders via locations that don't have official border control points.

GLOBAL RELEVANCE

Combating diverse types of human trafficking is given priority across the 2030 Agenda and the Global Compact for Migration. Therefore, quality, disaggregated data on trafficking are crucial towards measuring relevant targets and Objectives. Quality data on trafficking are relatively scarce and efforts are needed to improve methodologies to collect data on the topic, to understand progress against relevant Global Compact Objectives.

RELEVANT SDGS:

Target 5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

Target 8.7: Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.

Target 16.2: End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children.

RELEVANT GLOBAL COMPACT OBJECTIVES:

Objective 10: Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration

See also Objectives 6, 7, and 12. (see Annex 5.2)

Cross-cutting themes: human rights and gender-responsive

Figure 11. Shares of detected trafficking victims, by form of exploitation, by subregion of detection, 2018 (or most recent)

NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

NORTH AMERICA

WESTERN AND SOUTHERN EUROPE

CENTRAL AND SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

72% 22% 6%

44% 32% 24%

64% 18% 18%

29% 66% 5%

64% 29% 7%

WEST AFRICA

30% 30% 40%

81% 13% 6%

36% 52% 12%

EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

64% 35% 1%

14% 71% 15%

21% 78% 1%

SOUTH ASIA

SOUTH AMERICA

26% 69% 5%

EAST AFRICA

SOUTHERN AFRICA

Sexual exploitation

Forced labour

Other purposes

Source: UNODC, 2020, p. 36.

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FIND OUT MORE

1. Counter-Trafficking Data Collaborative (CTDC), 2021 (click here).
2. UNODC, 2020 (click here).
3. ILO, IOM and Walk Free Foundation, 2017 (click here).
4. Global Migration Data Portal (click here).

3.10
MIGRANT SMUGGLING

Migrant smuggling is defined by the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air (2000) as the "procurement, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit, of the illegal entry of a person into a State Party of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident". Smuggling, contrary to trafficking, does not require an element of exploitation, coercion, or violation of human rights. There is no global figure for the number of smuggled migrants given its clandestine nature.

The UNODC (2018) estimated that 2.5 million migrants were smuggled for an economic return of USD 5.5-7 billion in 2016. This is equivalent to what the United States of America (some USD 7 billion) or the European Union countries (some USD 6 billion) spent on humanitarian aid globally in 2016. Migrants entering countries irregularly sometimes rely on smugglers to enable their travel, though the true number is unknown. However, contrary to popular conceptions of smugglers as ruthless criminals controlled by wealthy transnational criminal networks, UNODC's Case Law Database indicates that most convicted smugglers in fact operated independently (Sanchez, 2018).

Though smuggling has increasingly been linked to trafficking and other forms of organized crime, smugglers range from high-level coordinators who are never in direct contact with migrants to brokers who house migrants or directly negotiate the terms of a journey. In many cases, distinguishing between smugglers and people on the move is challenging, indicating a need to move beyond a criminalization-only approach. Approaches to restricting irregular migration, including by combating migrant smuggling, fuel the demand for services aimed at escaping detection (IOM, 2021); as such, promoting legal, safe pathways is one of the few long-term, sustainable solutions to smuggling.

GLOBAL RELEVANCE

RELEVANT SDGS:

Target 16.4: By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime.

Target 10.7: Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

RELEVANT GLOBAL COMPACT OBJECTIVES:

Objective 9: Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants

See also Objectives 5, 7, and 11 (see Annex 5.2)

Figure 12. Estimates of migrant smuggling

Estimated number of migrants smuggled per year, 2016

Estimated global smuggling market

2.5 million
MIGRANTS
× 100,000 people

5.5–7 billion
US DOLLARS
× 1 billion dollars
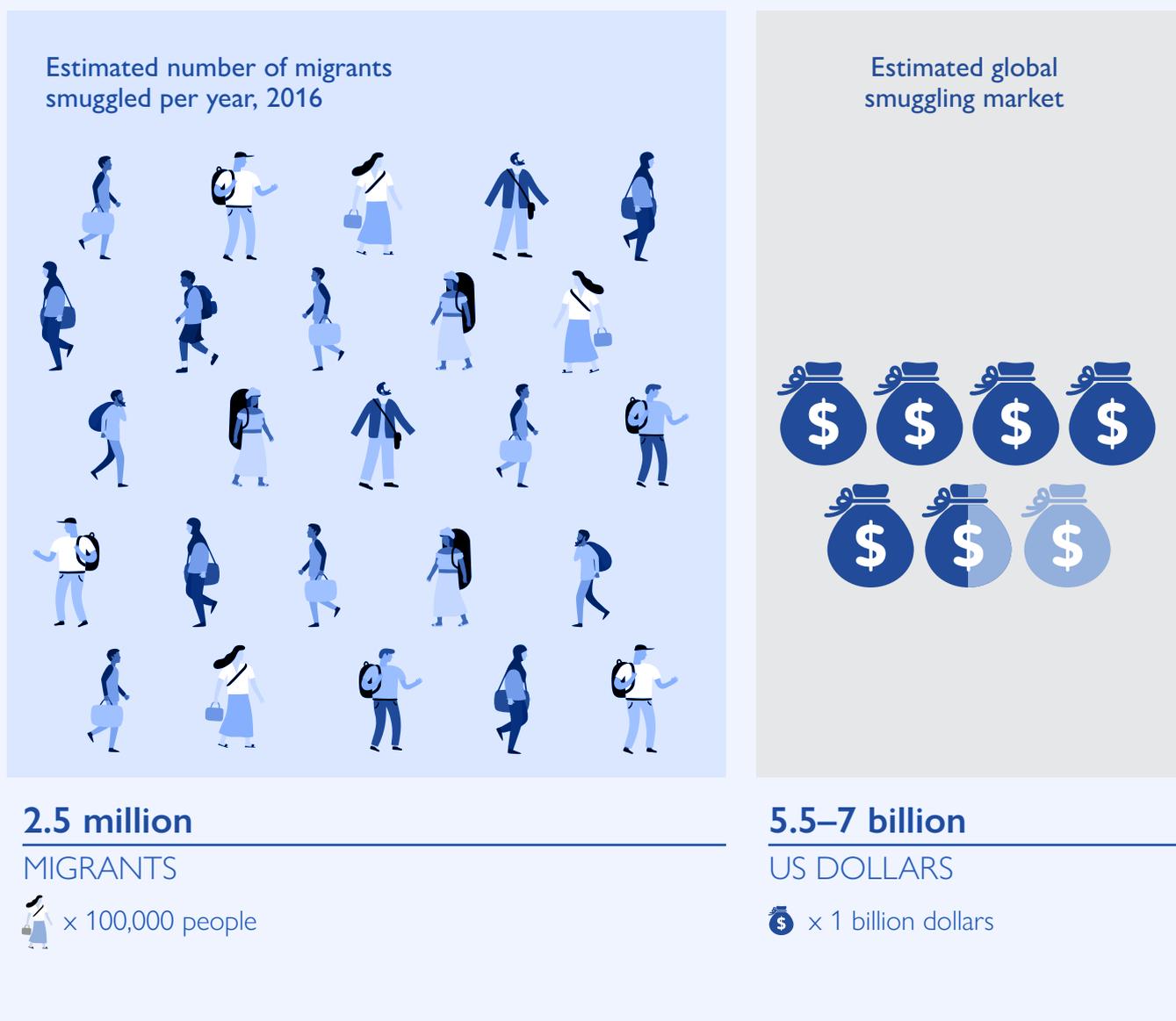
Source: UNODC, 2018.

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FIND OUT MORE

1. UNODC, 2018 (click here).
2. IOM, 2016 (click here).
3. Global Migration Data Portal (click here).

3.11
MIGRANT RETURNS

There are no harmonized global figures for return migration. While millions of migrants return to their country of origin every year, not all returns are necessarily recorded. The top five countries that experienced the largest outflows in 2018 were Germany (923,580), Republic of Korea (365,117), Turkey (323,918), Japan (292,059) and the Netherlands (102,802), according to figures compiled by the OECD on outflows of foreign populations from selected OECD countries. FRONTEX, the European Union Border and Coast Guard Agency, reports that 298,190 irregular migrants were given a "return decision" by European Union Member States[3] in 2019. The main recipients of return decisions in 2019 were, as in 2018, nationals of Ukraine, Morocco and Afghanistan. Of all return decisions issued, 138,860 people returned to their countries of origin (either forcibly or voluntarily), a figure that is around 6 per cent lower than in 2018. The number of effective returns in 2019 is the lowest reported since at least 2008, according to EUROSTAT data (European Parliament, 2021).

In the year between April 2020 and March 2021, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement expelled 611,214 individuals to their country of last transit (U.S. Customs and Border Protection, 2021).[4] In Australia, the Department of Immigration and Border Protection assisted in or managed the departure of 10,501 people with expired visas from Australia in the year between July 2019 and June 2020, a decrease compared to 2018–2019 figures (12,977) (Australian Department of Home Affairs, 2021). In Canada, the number of deportations carried out by the Border Services Agency (2021) declined dramatically from 11,527 removals in the fiscal year 2019/2020 to 6,417 removals in the fiscal year 2020/2021. In 2019, 19,000 people left the United Kingdom via enforced or voluntary return, the lowest annual level since 2014. There were 7,400 enforced returns in 2018, 22 per cent fewer than in the previous year – and the lowest annual level since 2004 – due to changes in the immigration systems, such as a reduced use of detention (Walsh, 2020).

In 2020, IOM assisted 42,181 migrants to return voluntarily to their countries of origin, a 43 per cent decrease from 2019 that is linked largely to COVID-19-related mobility restrictions. IOM also provided 106,230 reintegration services to returnees in 2020, including through reintegration counselling and economic, social and psychosocial assistance. 93 per cent of these services were provided to migrants who returned through IOM programmes, 6 per cent were to forced returnees.

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[3] Excluding three Member States that did not report data (FRONTEX, 2020).

[4] Accessed 4 May 2021. Data from previous years are not comparable due to a change in reporting in March 2020.

GLOBAL RELEVANCE

Data on migrant returns, particularly by type of return, are valuable in the context of monitoring migration governance under SDG Target 10.7. More detailed data on other aspects of safe and dignified return and readmission, such as reintegration, will be valuable going forward to help understand progress under Global Compact for Migration Objective 21.

RELEVANT SDGS:	RELEVANT GLOBAL COMPACT OBJECTIVES:
Target 10.7: Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.	Objective 21: Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission

Figure 13. Beneficiaries of IOM AVRR programmes (2020)

Sex breakdown

FEMALE — 24%

MALE — 76%

Age breakdown

Age	Percentage
0–8	9%
9–11	2%
12–14	2%
15–17	2%
18–24	25%
25–34	34%
35–49	19%
50+	7%

CHILDREN — 15%
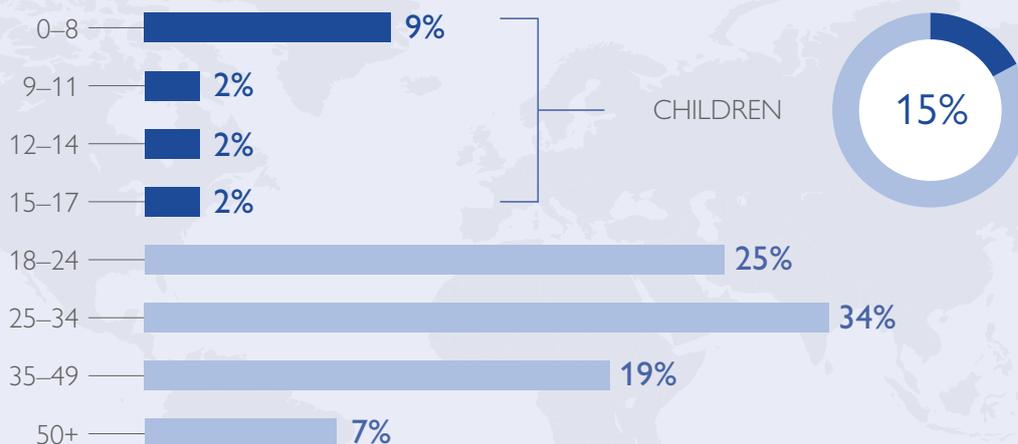
Migrants in vulnerable situations — 2,386

Migrants with health-related needs

Identified victims of trafficking

Unaccompanied and separated children

↑ 📍 136
Number of host countries

↓ 📍 164
Number of countries of origin

↕ 📍 123
Number of countries that are both host countries and countries of origin

Source: IOM, 2021.

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FIND OUT MORE

1. Frontex, 2020 (click here).
2. IOM, 2021 (click here).
3. Global Migration Data Portal (click here).

3.12
MIGRANT INTEGRATION AND WELL-BEING

Migrant integration covers multiple domains including labour market, education, health, well-being and other outcomes for migrants. For most of these areas, data is not available at the global level for 2020, and to date research on the topic has largely been limited to high-income countries or regions. Integration outcomes depend on many factors including the country of origin, the host community context and the skill level of immigrants. Integration tends to improve with the duration of residence in most countries where data are available (OECD, 2015; Huddleston et al., 2013). Research on OECD countries shows that for migrants in virtually all countries, income inequality is higher than for native-born residents (OECD, 2018). Data from 2014–15 show that on average 14.5 per cent of migrants in OECD countries were unemployed – 4.5 per cent higher than the rate for the native-born population (ibid.). Across the OECD area, migrants are more likely to be over-qualified for the work they do than are the native-born: in 2015, more than one in three employed migrants with a tertiary degree were employed in a low- or medium-skilled job, whereas the overqualification rate of native-born was only 25 per cent (OECD & European Union, 2015).

The McKinsey Global Institute estimates that migrants contributed roughly USD 6.7 trillion, or 9.4 per cent, to global GDP in 2015–some USD 3 trillion more than they would have produced in their origin countries (Jeffers et. al, 2018).

GLOBAL RELEVANCE

Data on migrant integration and well-being are important in the context of the SDGs insofar as they help us explore how far migrants are being "left behind." Further, disaggregated data across more themes are needed to better understand how migration affects individuals' wellbeing, and to help monitor progress towards various specific SDG target and Global Compact for Migration Objectives, including on integration.

RELEVANT SDGs:	RELEVANT GLOBAL COMPACT OBJECTIVES:
Target 10.2: By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.	Objective 16: Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion
	Cross-cutting theme: people-centred and whole-of-society approach
	See also Objectives 15, 17, 18 and 22 (see Annex 5.2)

Figure 14. Measuring migrant integration

The challenge in measuring migrant integration comprehensively or systematically is that integration data cover different integration areas, countries and time periods. They also measure integration differently.

Two key data sources measure integration:

OECD AND EU	MIGRANT INTEGRATION POLICY INDEX
measure outcomes	measures policies

OECD AND EU

+ provides information on migrants' economic, social, cultural, and political integration

– aggregate data may not reflect the integration of particular migrant groups

MIGRANT INTEGRATION POLICY INDEX

+ provides information on migrants' economic, social, cultural, and political integration

– aggregate data may not reflect the integration of particular migrant groups

Countries the data source covers

41

38

Indicators the data source covers

27

167

Integration areas the indicators cover

5
Social cohesion
Employment
Civic engagement
Social inclusion
Education and skills

8
Labour market mobility
Family reunion
Anti-discrimination
Political participation
Long-term residence
Access to nationality
Education
Health

Years covered

2006-2007 2008 2009 2010
2011 2012 2013

2004
2007 2008 2009 2010
2012 2013 2014

Source: OECD, 2018.

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Note: OECD and EU data on integration covers mostly 2008–2013, but some data on a few indicators cover other years.

FIND OUT MORE

1. OECD, 2018 (click here).
2. Jeffers, Tjaden and Laczko, 2018 (click here).
3. Global Migration Data Portal (click here).

3.13
MIGRATION OF CHILDREN AND WOMEN

According to the UN DESA (2021), the estimated number of people aged 19 or under living in a country other than the one where they were born rose to 40.9 million in 2020 – an increase of 41 per cent compared to 1990. Children under 18 make up 12 per cent of all international migrants, but comprised 50 per cent of the refugee population and 42 per cent of internally displaced persons as of 2019 (IDAC, 2020). In recent years, the limited data available from Europe and the United States indicate that the number of children migrating unaccompanied by guardians has increased. For example, the number of unaccompanied minors seeking asylum in Europe increased from 10,610 in 2010 to 95,205 in 2015 – an exceptionally high number – but has since decreased to 14,230 in 2020 (EUROSTAT, 2021).

Women comprised slightly less than half (135 million) of the global international migrant stock in 2020 (UN DESA, 2021). The share of female migrants has declined from 49.1 per cent in 2000 to 48.1 per cent in 2020, though the absolute number has increased dramatically from 75 million female migrants in 2000 to 135 million in 2020. Though the proportion of females migrating varies considerably across regions, since 2000 the number of female migrants increased in all regions (ibid.).

GLOBAL RELEVANCE

Both the SDGs and the Global Compact for Migration accord high importance to the issues of migrant women and children. In addition to various migration-related SDG targets relevant specifically to women and children, the 2030 Agenda calls for data disaggregation to help understand progress against these SDG targets. Data on specific vulnerabilities relating to migrant women and children, for example, are crucial to better understand the nature and extent of risks and challenges they face, which can impact the realization of Global Compact for Migration Objective 7.

RELEVANT SDGs:

Target 5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

Target 16.2: End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children.

See also Target 5.4 and 8.8 on female labour migration.

RELEVANT GLOBAL COMPACT OBJECTIVES:

Objective 1: Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies

Objective 7: Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration

Cross-cutting themes: child sensitivity and gender-responsive

Figure 15. Child and young migrants and total international migrant stock by sex, mid-year 2020
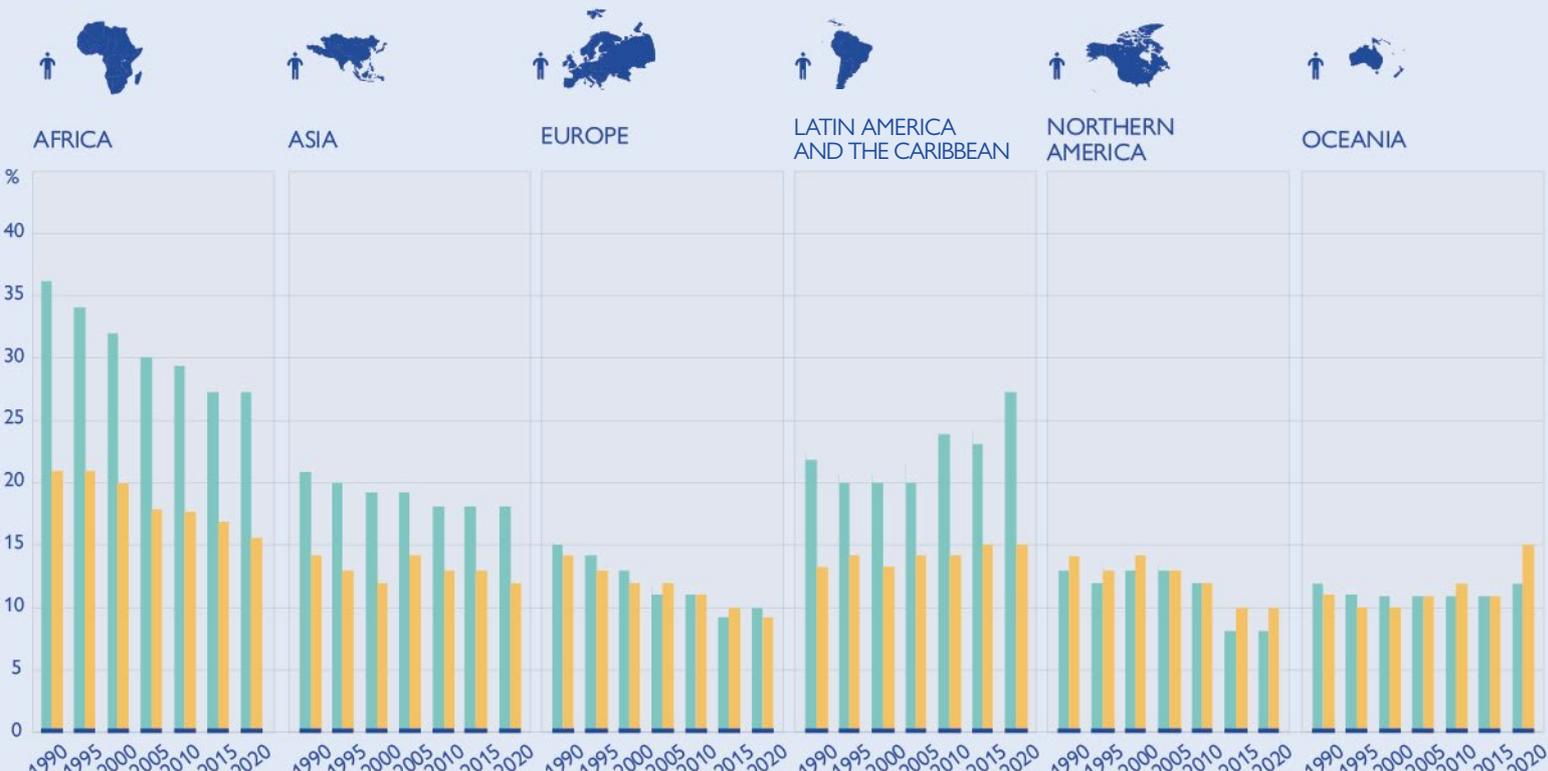
Note: In the above graph, persons between the ages of 15 and 24 are "young migrants" and persons aged 19 and under are considered "child migrants".

CHILD MIGRANTS   YOUNG MIGRANTS

281 million international migrants, mid-year 2020

51.9%

48.1%
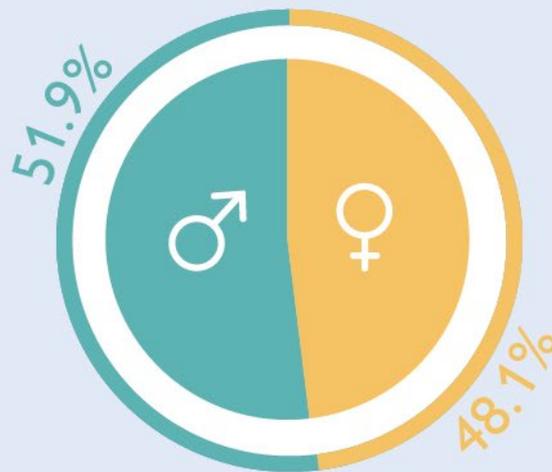
MALE MIGRANTS   FEMALE MIGRANTS

Source: UN DESA, 2021.

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FIND OUT MORE

1. IDAC, 2021 (click here).
2. KNOMAD, 2016 (click here).
3. Global Migration Data Portal pages on gender and children.
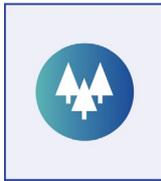
3.14
MIGRANT AND
THE ENVIRONMENT

Both sudden and slow-onset disasters and environmental change are associated with diverse mobility patterns, reflecting complex decision-making processes at the individual, household and community levels. Moving out of areas exposed to, or affected by, environmental events and processes can be a life-saving measure or a way to build resilience and adaptive capacity. Decisions to move are, however, always mediated by socioeconomic and political factors, including resources and skills available to people, their access to local and remote opportunities, and obstacles hindering their movement, including restrictive migration and border policies (Foresight: Migration and Global Environmental Change, 2011).

Climate and environmental change are threatening ecosystems and livelihood systems all over the world and are expected to increasingly drive migration and displacement over the coming decades. By 2050, climate change impacts could lead more than 143 million to move within their countries, according to Groundswell (2018) estimates for sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and Latin America. Even if "climate-friendly" policies are enacted, up to 72 million people will likely be on the move in the three regions (ibid.)

In 2020 alone, environmental disasters accounted for 30.7 million new internal displacements in 149 countries, the highest figure in at least a decade (IDMC, 2021). More than 98 per cent of these movements were the result of weather-related hazards like storms and floods. Five countries accounted for more than 60 per cent of the new internal displacements due to disasters: China, the Philippines, Bangladesh, India, and the United States (ibid.). Moreover, 95 per cent of displacements due to conflict in 2020 occurred in countries that are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change (ibid.).

By the end of 2020, an estimated 7 million people in 104 countries were still living in displacement as a result of environmental disasters, which might be a significant underestimate (ibid.). The top 5 countries with the highest number of people living in internal displacement at the end of 2020 due to disasters were Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Ethiopia, the Philippines and the Sudan (ibid).

Beyond sudden-onset disasters, however, it is difficult to single out environmental events or processes as the sole or main factor triggering migration or displacement, as mobility decisions are generally multicausal. Similarly, while most mobility in the context of the environment occurs within countries, some people are forced to cross borders. Data on the dynamics of population movements in the context of disasters and environmental change are limited.

GLOBAL RELEVANCE

Data on migration and the environment are crucial towards understanding complexities of migration drivers under Objective 2 of the Global Compact for Migration, as well as across several SDG targets on climate change and resilience.

RELEVANT SDGS:	RELEVANT GLOBAL COMPACT OBJECTIVES:
Target 13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.	Objective 2: Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin
Target 13.b: Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities.	

Longitudinal data on the duration of displacement and the achievement of durable solutions are quite scarce, and it remains difficult to track situations of protracted displacement and understand when displacement ends. There is very little systematic evidence of the social and economic outcomes of displacement and migration in the context of disasters, both for those on the move and their communities.

Figure 16: Estimates of new disaster-related displacements in 2020

30.7m total new displacements (disasters)

30m weather related (98%)

655 000 geophysical displacements

13.6m cyclones, hurricanes, typhoons

988,000 other storms

14m floods

1.2m wildfires

102,000 landslides

46,000 extreme temperatures

32,000 droughts

137,000 earthquakes

518,000 volcanic eruptions
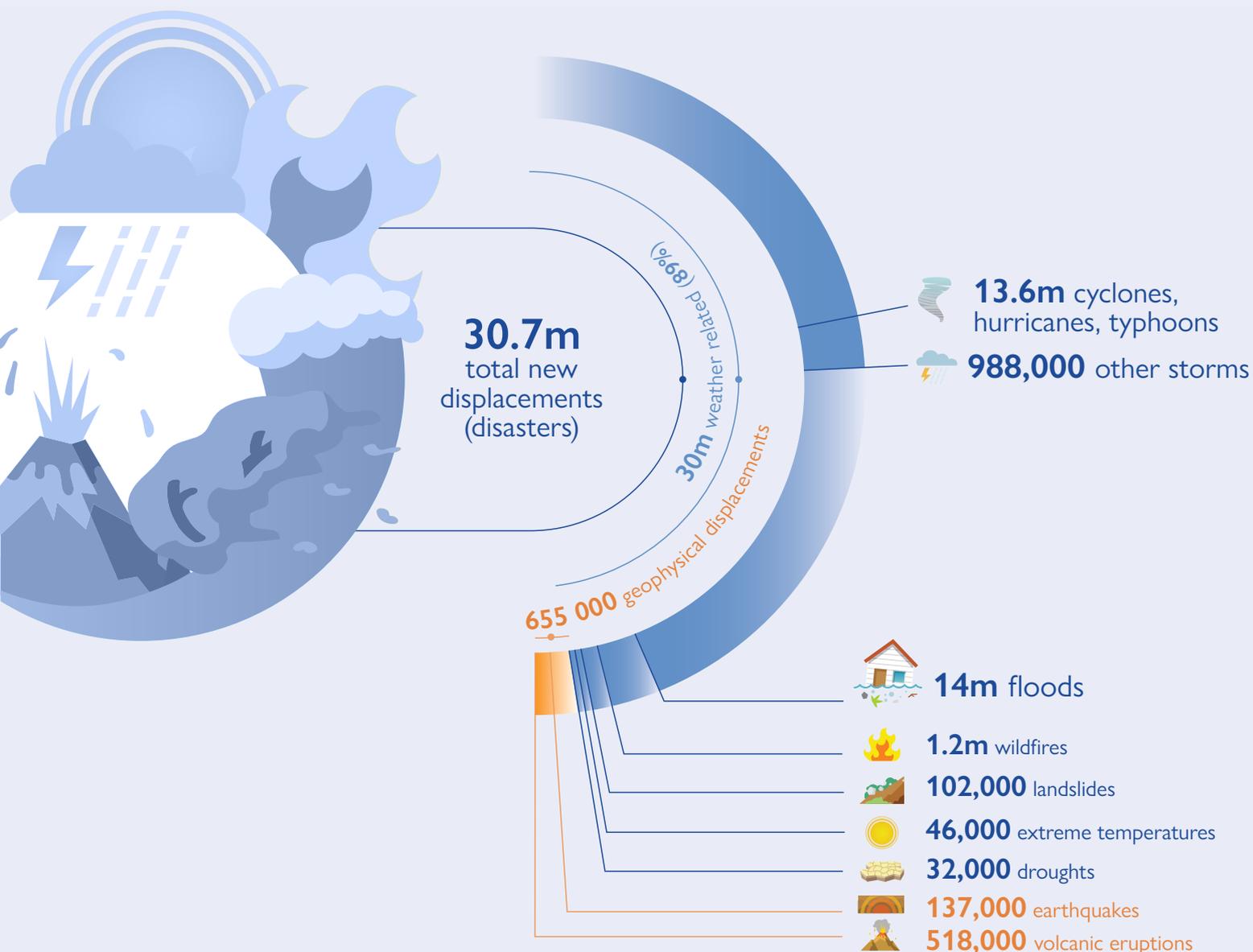
Source: IDMC, 2021.
Note: Most new displacements estimated by IDMC (2021) are best understood as short-term evacuations lasting days or weeks.

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FIND OUT MORE

1. IDMC, 2021 (click here).
2. IOM and Eurasylum, 2020 (click here).
3. Groundswell, 2018 (click here).
4. Global Migration Data Portal (click here).

3.15
MIGRATION POLICIES AND GOVERNANCE

Global trends in migration governance cannot be easily defined or tracked, because available indices cover different aspects of migration for different periods and regions, and because migration policies are highly contextual. According to the data on SDG Indicator 10.7.2, more than half of all Governments (54%) report having a wide range of policies to facilitate orderly, safe, regular, and responsible migration and mobility of people. A report from UN DESA, IOM and OECD (2019) indicates that 91 per cent of States report having an interministerial coordination mechanism on migration in place, whereas 90 per cent have bilateral agreements on migration with other countries. Data collected in 84 countries for the Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) shows that just 38 per cent of MGI countries have a defined national migration strategy and 31 per cent have it aligned with their national economic development strategy. On the other hand, the majority (81%) of MGI countries have at least one government body dedicated to border control and security.

For countries in the OECD, data from the International Migration Policy and Law Analysis (IMPALA) database reveal a tendency "toward more complex and, often, more restrictive regulation since the 1990's" (Beine et al., 2016). IMPALA data also show "differential treatment of groups, such as lower requirements for highly skilled than low-skilled labor migrants" (ibid.). Others find that while policies toward irregular migrants and, more recently, family members have often become more restrictive, other policies targeting high and low-skilled workers, students, and migrants from specific origins, have become less restrictive since the Second World War (De Haas et al., 2014).

GLOBAL RELEVANCE

Data on overall migration governance are crucial towards monitoring progress on SDG Target 10.7 and all objectives of the Global Compact for Migration, and can additionally serve as a key capacity-building tool for countries. Further, the diverse policy areas covered by different relevant indices provide further detail on specific areas of migration governance relevant to certain migration topics.

RELEVANT SDGS:

Target 10.7: Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

RELEVANT GLOBAL COMPACT OBJECTIVES:

Objective 23: Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration

Cross-cutting themes: international cooperation and whole-of-government approach

See also Objectives 1, 3, and 12 (see Annex 5.2)

Figure 17. Migration Policy Indices

Available data on
how countries
regulate migration

DATA SOURCES	COUNTRIES COVERED	INDICATORS COVERED *	YEARS COVERED	PUBLICLY AVAILABLE
UN DESA United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs	196	29	1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010	☑
SDG indicator 10.7.2	111	1 (30 subcategories)	1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010	☑
ELECLAW Electoral Law Indicators (measures the degree of inclusion of electoral laws)	51	6	1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010	☑
Global Migration Barometer (ranks countries on how attractive and accessible they are for migrants)	61	32	1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010	✕
MGI Migration Governance Indicators	84	about 90	1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010	☑
Migrant Rights Indicators (constructs and analyses two indices that measure the openness of labour immigration programmes and the legal rights granted to migrant workers after admission)	46		1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010	☑
DEMIG Determinants of International Migration	45	51	1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010	☑
CITLAW Citizenship Law Indicators	42	6 (calculated from 45 basic indicators)	1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010	☑
MiTSoPro Migration and Transnational Social Protection in (post-)crisis Europe	40			✕

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FIND OUT MORE

1. UN DESA, IOM and OECD, 2019 (click here).
2. IOM, 2019 (click here).
3. Global Migration Data Portal (click here).

3.16
PUBLIC OPINION ON MIGRATION

Globally, public opinion is divided on the question of whether to increase, decrease or keep present immigration levels. Public opinion data on migration is mostly available for a small number of countries and rarely collected every year. Questions on public opinion can generally be divided between migration policy and social acceptance of migrants. According to Gallup's Migrant Acceptance Index (2020), the world has become less accepting of migrants between 2016 and 2019, though some countries saw an increase in migrant acceptance. Canada, Iceland, New Zealand and Australia are the most-accepting countries for migrants according to Gallup's 2019 poll, whereas North Macedonia, Hungary, Serbia and Croatia were the least-accepting.

A majority of those in top migrant destination countries view immigrants as a strength, according to a 2018 Pew Research Center Survey of 18 countries that host half of the world's migrants. Survey data from 2016 suggest that the attitudes towards immigration may have become more negative, and approximately half of respondents agreed with the statement "there are too many immigrants in our country" (IPSOS, 2016).

However, there is significant regional variation in public opinion. People in Europe have tended in the past to hold more negative views towards immigration, with the majority (52%) saying immigration levels should be decreased (IOM, 2015). Immigration was viewed as the number one public issue in Europe from 2014 to 2019, but in 2020 just 23 per cent of Eurobarometer respondents indicated that immigration was the most pressing concern facing the EU, behind the concerns over the overall economic situation in Europe and tied with worries about the state of Member States' public finances (European Commission, 2019a; 2019b). On the contrary, attitudes are more positive in the United States of America, with the majority (63%) saying immigration levels should be increased (Pew Research Center, 2018).

GLOBAL RELEVANCE

Data on public opinion on migration are especially relevant to monitor progress on Objective 17 of the Global Compact for Migration on eliminating discrimination. Further, they provide useful information for policymakers on reactions to current migration trends and policies.

RELEVANT SDGs:

Though there is no SDG indicator specifically linked to public opinion on migration, Indicators under SDG Target 16.7, which calls on States to "ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making," include some elements of public opinion on policymaking that would broadly include migration.

RELEVANT GLOBAL COMPACT OBJECTIVES:

Objective 16: Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion

Objective 17: Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration

Cross-cutting theme: *whole-of-society approach*

Figure 18. Attitudes towards immigration by region in 2015 (%)

In your view, should immigration in this country be kept at its present level, increased or decreased?

Legend:
● Don´t know/ refuse to answer   ● Present Level   ● Decreased   ● Increased

Global
| 22% | 22% | 34% | 21% |

Oceania
| 5% | 41% | 26% | 28% |

North America
| 4% | 34% | 39% | 23% |

Latin America and the Caribbean
| 13% | 30% | 39% | 18% |

Africa
| 12% | 21% | 40% | 26% |

Asia
| 30% | 18% | 29% | 24% |

Europe
| 10% | 30% | 52% | 8% |

0   20   40   60   80   100
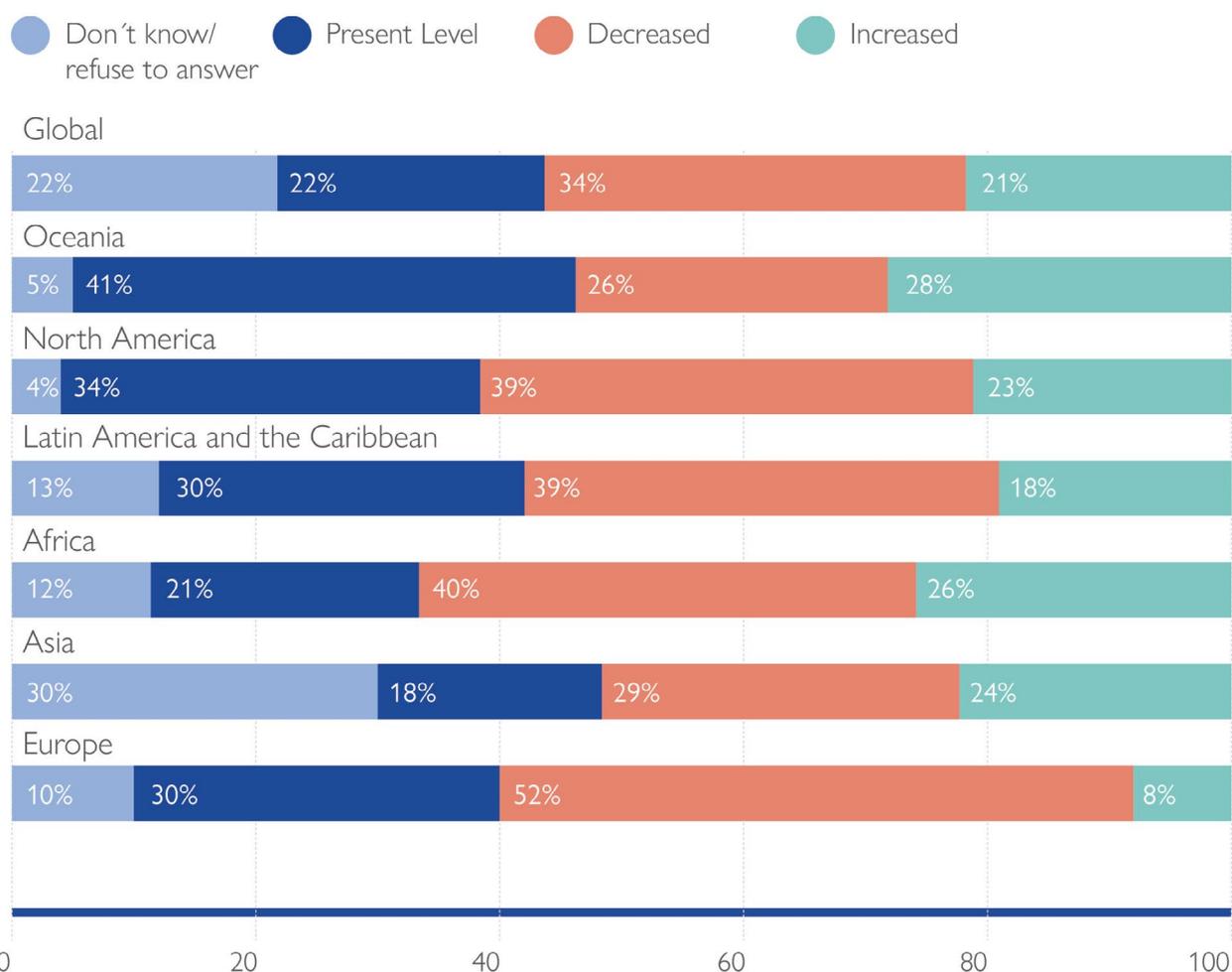
Source: IOM, 2015.
Note: Total group results are weighted by population size. Figures may not add up to 100%.

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FIND OUT MORE

1. Gallup, 2020 (click here).
2. Pew Research Center, 2018 (click here).
3. ODI, 2018 (click here).
4. Global Migration Data Portal (click here).

3.17
BIG DATA FOR MIGRATION

In our current Information Age, more data are produced than ever before. In 2020 an estimated 64.2 zettabytes of data was produced, equivalent to filling nearly 700,000 iPhone Xs with data every day that year. By 2025, this amount is expected to almost triple to more than 180 zettabytes (Statista, 2021). This exponential increase in the quantity of data produced, as well as new technologies that vastly improve data processing abilities, have created new opportunities and challenges across many policy domains, including migration.

As of August 2021, more than 110 million adults worldwide have registered as "living outside their home country" on Facebook (Facebook Ads Manager, 2021). This share of "expats" identified by Facebook in the website's total monthly active users as of August 2021 is 3.8 per cent of the total 2.85 billion users, a figure similar to figures on the total share of migrants worldwide, estimated at 3.6 per cent of the world's population as of 2020 (UN DESA, 2021). Huge, frequently-updated datasets such as those from Facebook are one way of understanding migration and complementing traditional data sources such as surveys, censuses, and administrative data.

As discussed in this report's section on referring to the speed at which they are generated and complexity of the information contained on data sources, timely, accurate and comparable data on migration and human mobility are limited. New sources of "big data" – including satellites, mobile phones and websites, including social media – and other innovative data approaches could help to fill existing gaps. Big data are particularly of interest as they are "big" not just in terms of the volume of data generated, but also referring to the speed at which they are generated and complexity of the information contained (Hilbert, 2013). As such, big data can provide near-real-time observations: for example, GPS data from Google (2021) provided daily updates on community mobility during the COVID-19 pandemic. Big data also often offer highly granular insights into geospatial trends, such as PulseSatellite, which uses satellite imagery and artificial intelligence to map population distributions in refugee camps (Logar et al., 2020). Mobile phone data also has great potential for tracking human mobility, as exemplified by Flowkit, an open-source tool using mobile network operator data to identify the number and location of displaced persons in the immediate aftermath of disasters (Flowminder, 2019).

However, big data and other innovative approaches to understanding migration also pose specific challenges. There are significant ethical and privacy issues in the use of big data, including concerns about the use of individually generated data without informed consent. In the migration field these concerns are multiplied by potential violations of civil liberties by the potential use of surveillance data on vulnerable groups such as irregular or forcibly displaced migrants. Given these concerns, it is now very important to develop ethical standards that protect all individuals and safeguard human rights. Big data are also inherently biased by the fact that the use of new technologies such as cell phones and the internet is not necessarily representative of the population at large. These biases can be magnified where innovative approaches use artificial intelligence, which rely on existing data (and their biases) to function. With these factors in mind, big data for migration is best used to complement rather than replace traditional sources such as surveys, censuses or administrative data.

GLOBAL RELEVANCE

Using big data sources to better understand human mobility can help answer some of the many unanswered questions on migration, especially those linked to future migration trends. While big data is not mentioned in the text of the SDGs, data innovation is seen as one way to fill data gaps to ensure no one is left behind.

RELEVANT SDGS:	RELEVANT GLOBAL COMPACT OBJECTIVES:
While there are no SDGs which explicitly mention data innovation, it is considered a cross-cutting topic relevant to almost all 2030 goals (see e.g. UN, 2017).	Objective 1: Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies

Figure 19. The potential of big data and innovative data sources

BIG DATA TYPE	STRENGTHS	CHALLENGES
MOBILE PHONE CALL DETAIL RECORDS (CDRS)	Covers large population of mobile phone users · Potential to track hard-to-reach populations · Timely information	Loss of information due to anonymization · Data access · Surveillance and privacy issues
GEO-LOCATED SOCIAL MEDIA DATA AND ONLINE MEDIA CONTENT	Richness of information · Potential to track hard-to-reach populations · Timely information on users' location	Reliability of self-reported information · Selection bias · Privacy and ethical issues
INTERNET ACTIVITY (e.g. Google searches)	Timely information on people's intentions · Free information (e.g. Google Trends)	Selection bias · Mismatch between intentions and actual behaviour
IP ADDRESSES OF WEBSITE LOGINS AND SENT EMAILS	Richness of information · Potential to track hard-to-reach populations · Timely information	Methodological issues · Selection bias · Privacy and ethical issues
EARTH OBSERVATION DATA (E.G. SATELLITE IMAGERY)	Timely information · High spatial resolution · Coverage · Comparability	Methodological and technical issues · Continuity · Data Access

Source: Migration Data Portal, 2017.

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FIND OUT MORE

1. Big Data for Migration Alliance (click here).
2. Migration Data Innovation Directory (click here).
3. Migration Data Portal (click here).

3.18
FUTURE MIGRATION TRENDS

The most recent estimates of future migration trends at a global level are based on data on migration intentions up to 2015. According to data from the Gallup World Poll, while large numbers of people around the world express a general desire to migrate (710 million), far fewer report they are actually planning or preparing to migrate in the next 12 months (Laczko et al., 2017). Less than 10 per cent of those expressing a wish to migrate between 2010 and 2015 said they were making plans to move in the next 12 months (66 million adults or 1.3 per cent of the world's adult population), and only 23 million adults reported taking steps to realize their plans (ibid.). Plans to migrate have increased on average by 2 per cent per year between 2010 and 2015, but potential migration has seen faster increases in some regions of the world. The number of adults planning to migrate in West Africa – the region with the highest migration potential in absolute terms – has increased by 7 per cent between 2010 and 2015 (ibid.).

While identifying future migration trends is in high demand from policymakers, forecasting is notoriously difficult. There are different approaches to migration forecasting that should be chosen carefully depending on the type of migration and the timeframe used. Early warning systems which monitor migratory movements and their drivers in real-time are best used in the short-term (Carammia and Dumont, 2018). Forecasting models, which predict future volumes of migration based on past trends, can be used in both short- and medium-term planning, but assume continuity of underlying migration drivers. Foresight, also called scenario building, is a systematic process which develops plausible migration narratives for longer-term strategic planning (Acostamadiedo et al., 2020). Though there has been no forecast of global migration trends, a recent paper using migration scenarios and a Delphi survey of 178 experts indicated that by 2030, total immigration flows to the European Union could increase between 21 and 44 per cent compared to the average yearly immigration flows recorded between 2008 and 2017 (ibid.).

GLOBAL RELEVANCE

Data on migration potential are useful towards understanding what migration patterns may look like in the future as well as how they may interact with certain migration drivers; topics relevant across migration SDG targets and Global Compact for Migration objectives.

RELEVANT SDGS:

Target 10.7: Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

RELEVANT GLOBAL COMPACT OBJECTIVES:

Objective 1: Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies

Objective 3: Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration

Figure 20. 2010–2015 – Less than half a per cent of adults worldwide said they were making any preparations to migrate

**LESS THAN HALF
A PERCENT** OF ADULTS
WORLDWIDE
said they were making any
preparations to migrate

Source: Laczko, Tjaden and Auer, 2017.

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Note: Total group results are weighted by population size. Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

FIND OUT MORE

1. Migration Policy Practice – Special Issue on Forecasting Global Migration, 2020 (click here).
2. Carammia and Dumont, 2018 (click here).
3. Laczko, Tjaden and Auer, 2017 (click here).
4. Migration Data Portal (click here).

3.19
MIGRATION DATA CAPACITY

The extent to which countries follow international guidance on migration statistics is a good measure of their migration data capacity. One of the main sources of data on migration are national censuses. Not all countries collect data on the same core census questions recommended by United Nations Statistics Division on country of birth, citizenship and year or period of arrival; during the 2010 census round, while more than 87 per cent of the 149 countries for which data are available had a census question about country of birth, only 75 per cent asked for citizenship and just over half (50.3%) asked for the year or period of arrival (Juran and Snow, 2017). While there are estimates of migrant stocks available for 232 UN countries/areas, there are significant variations in regional data availability. In 2020, 102 IOM offices in different countries offered technical support to government counterparts to improve migration data.[5]

COVID-related challenges to censuses and surveys profoundly impact the collection of migration data, as well as population statistics more broadly. With 150 countries scheduled to conduct census enumeration between 2020 and 2021, the pandemic is likely to disrupt data collection through delays, interruptions or cancellations, all of which can compromise the quality of census data.

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[5] Figures based on an internal IOM Institutional Questionnaire conducted in 2020.

GLOBAL RELEVANCE

Measuring migration data capacity is difficult, but this may improve through the SDGs and the Global Compact for Migration. Both of these processes recognise the need for capacity-building to enhance migration statistics at the national, regional and global levels; this could see greater efforts behind strengthening and monitoring migration data capacities of countries.[6]

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[6] See PARIS21 (2020)'s report on strengthening data capacities in this context.

RELEVANT SDGS:

Target 17.18: By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data, disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.
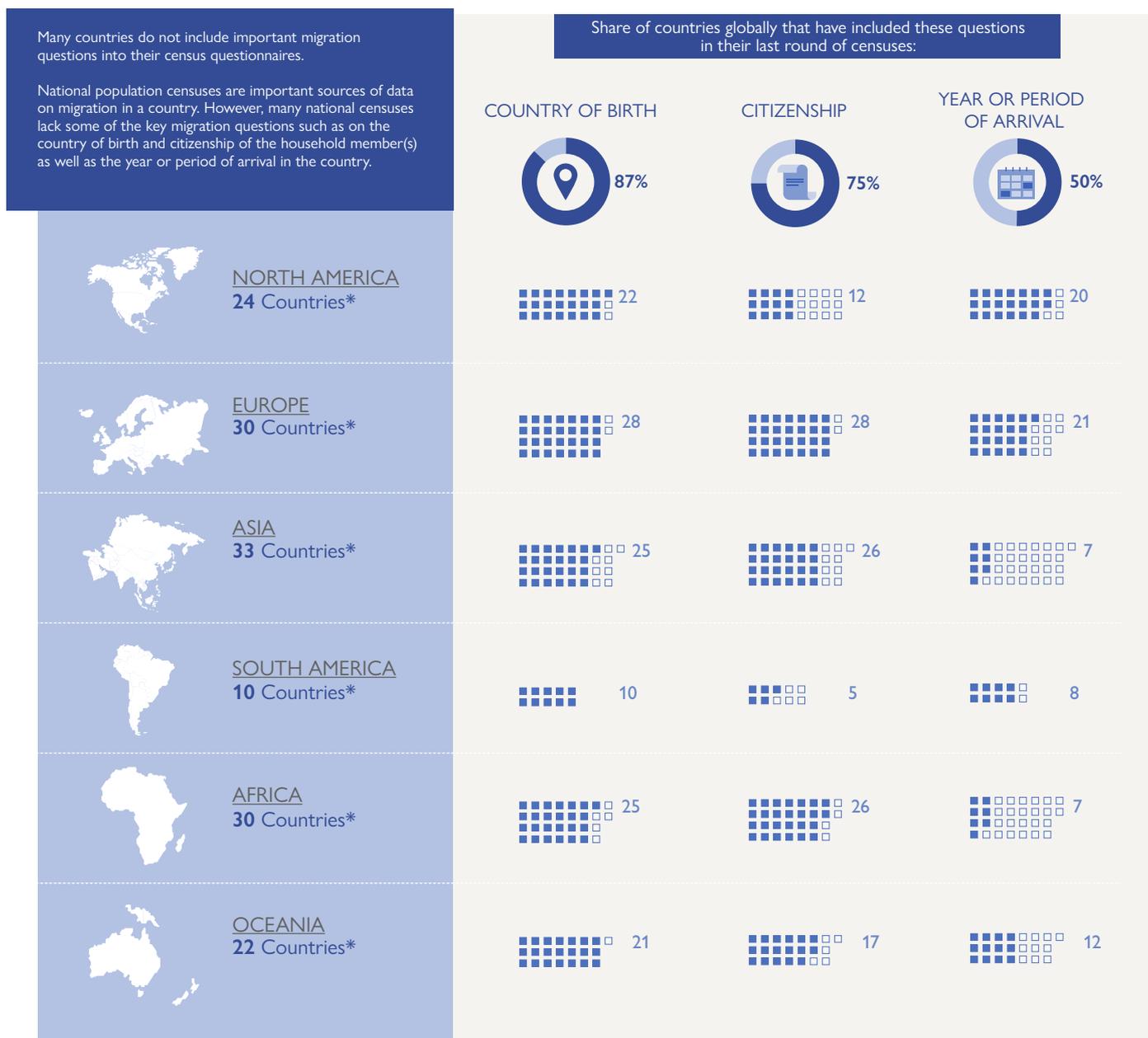
RELEVANT GLOBAL COMPACT OBJECTIVES:

Objective 1: Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies

Objective 3: Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration

Cross-cutting theme: international cooperation and whole-of-government approach

Figure 21. Capacity of governments to collect data on migration through censuses

Many countries do not include important migration questions into their census questionnaires.

National population censuses are important sources of data on migration in a country. However, many national censuses lack some of the key migration questions such as on the country of birth and citizenship of the household member(s) as well as the year or period of arrival in the country.

Share of countries globally that have included these questions in their last round of censuses:

	COUNTRY OF BIRTH	CITIZENSHIP	YEAR OR PERIOD OF ARRIVAL
	87%	75%	50%
NORTH AMERICA 24 Countries*	22	12	20
EUROPE 30 Countries*	28	28	21
ASIA 33 Countries*	25	26	7
SOUTH AMERICA 10 Countries*	10	5	8
AFRICA 30 Countries*	25	26	7
OCEANIA 22 Countries*	21	17	12

* This represents the number of countries with a census in the UN Statistics Division database.   © IOM GMDAC 2021

Source: IOM GMDAC elaboration based on numbers calculated by UNFPA, 2017 based on UN DESA, 2016 census database, based on UNSD regions.

FIND OUT MORE

1. Schachter, 2019 (click here).
2. Mosler Vidal, 2018 (click here).
3. Migration Data Portal (click here).

4 | CONCLUSION

This report provides a snapshot of international data across a range of migration topics that are relevant to policymakers, the public and others. This overview of key migration trends is of particular importance due to the migration-related aspects of the SDGs and the Global Compact for Migration, but also due to the very real risk of migrants being "left behind" due to the many challenges linked to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020.

This report provides an indication of what sources of data are available at the global level to enable policymakers to monitor progress towards migration-related targets in the SDGs and the Global Compact for Migration. Across the migration topics discussed in section three, there is considerable variation in the availability and quality vary considerably. There is a clear need to improve migration data across the board, and in particular to address the many data gaps needed to fulfil the migration-related commitments in the SDGs and the Global Compact for Migration.

Two major developments at the international level have the potential to change how we measure and assess migration in the future: the 2030 Agenda and the adoption of the the Global Compact for Migration. The status of SDG migration indicators helps show the status of migration data capacity at the international level. As of 2020, only 16 of 37 (43%) of global SDG indicators to measure migration progress were ranked as Tier 1, meaning they were conceptually clear, had an internationally established methodology and standards, and data were regularly produced by at least half of relevant countries or populations. Similarly, data are a prominent part of the Global Compact for Migration, with its first Objective committing States to "collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies". The Global Compact for Migration stresses the importance of having good migration data to promote a "well-informed public discourse" and for "effective monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of commitments over time."

IOM's recently adopted *Migration Data Strategy* underlines the importance of taking action to improve data on migration to meet a range of needs. It states "data are the lifeblood of decision-making. The importance of quality, accessible, disaggregated, reliable and timely data to inform policies, action and public opinion is well recognized and highlighted in international frameworks. Times of crisis bring an acute awareness of the essential need for such data while starkly revealing gaps and deficiencies in existing data systems" (IOM, 2021).

Addressing migration data gaps has only become more urgent due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Policy aimed at addressing the impacts of the pandemic must include migrants, both to protect migrants working on the front line of the response and those most vulnerable. Such policy hinges on the continued collection and analysis of robust data on migrants and migration-related issues. The outbreak of COVID-19 and the ensuing mobility restrictions and reprioritization of resources has in many cases exacerbated the existing challenges related to migration data. Both the collection of statistics on regular and irregular migration have been profoundly affected.

Better data will help the international community take action to meet commitments under the 2030 Agenda and the Global Compact for Migration. The outbreak of the pandemic has meant that collecting, analysing and using more and better data on migration-related issues has become more important than ever. Without better data to support evidence-based policies, the contributions and vulnerabilities of migrants can be neither fully leveraged nor addressed evidence pointing to severe impacts on migration-related data collection, resources must be dedicated to ensuring that migrants are not left behind.

5 | **ANNEX**

5.1 LIST OF MIGRATION-RELATED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL TARGETS

The table below details SDG targets that directly mention migration and migration-related topics. Note that migration is indirectly relevant to many more of the 169 targets, including some of those mentioned above. While the table below includes only those SDG targets most relevant to migration, the full list can be found here.

Table 1: List of migration-related Sustainable Development Goal targets (1/5)

TARGET	INDICATOR	CLASSIFICATION	INDICATOR CUSTODIAN AGENCY
TARGET 1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.	**1.5.1** Number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people	I	UNDRR
	1.5.2 Direct disaster economic loss in relation to global gross domestic product (GDP)	II	UNDRR
	1.5.3 Number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies	II	UNDRR
	1.5.4 Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies	II	UNDRR

Table 1: List of migration-related Sustainable Development Goal targets (2/5)

TARGET	INDICATOR	CLASSIFICATION	INDICATOR CUSTODIAN AGENCY
TARGET 4.B By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries.	**4.B.1** Volume of official development assistance flows for scholarships by sector and type of study	I	OECD/UNESCO-UIS
TARGET 5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.			
TARGET 8.7 Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.	**8.7.1** Proportion and number of children aged 5–17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age	II	ILO, UNICEF
TARGET 8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.	**8.8.1** Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status	II	ILO
	8.8.2 Level of national compliance with labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labour Organization (ILO) textual sources and national legislation, by sex and migrant status	II	ILO

Table 1: List of migration-related Sustainable Development Goal targets (3/5)

TARGET	INDICATOR	CLASSIFICATION	INDICATOR CUSTODIAN AGENCY
TARGET 10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status	**10.2.1** Proportion of people living below 50 per cent of median income, by sex, age and persons with disabilities	II	World Bank
TARGET 10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard	**10.3.1** Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law	II	OHCHR
TARGET 10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies	**10.7.1** Recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of monthly income earned in country of destination	II	ILO, World Bank
	10.7.2 Number of countries with migration policies to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people	II	UN DESA, IOM
	10.7.3 Number of people who died or disappeared in the process of migration towards an international destination	I	IOM
	10.7.4 Proportion of the population who are refugees, by country of origin	I	UNHCR

Table 1: List of migration-related Sustainable Development Goal targets (4/5)

TARGET	INDICATOR	CLASSIFICATION	INDICATOR CUSTODIAN AGENCY
TARGET 10.C By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent.	**10.C.1** Remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted	I	World Bank
TARGET 16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children.	**16.2.2** Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation	II	UNODC
TARGET 16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime.	**16.4.1** Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows (in current USD)	II	UNODC, UNCTAD
TARGET 17.3 Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources	**17.3.2** Volume of remittances (in USD) as a proportion of total GDP	I	World Bank

Table 1: List of migration-related Sustainable Development Goal targets (5/5)

TARGET	INDICATOR	CLASSIFICATION	INDICATOR CUSTODIAN AGENCY
TARGET 17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data, disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.	**17.18.** Statistical capacity indicator for Sustainable Development Goal monitoring	II	
	17.18.2 Number of countries that have national statistical legislation that complies with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics	II	PARIS21
	17.18.3 Number of countries with a national statistical plan that is fully funded and under implementation, by source of funding	I	PARIS21

5.2 GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR MIGRATION – LIST OF OBJECTIVES

The tables below summarize the Objectives and cross-cutting themes of the Global Compact for Migration. For the full text and related resources of the Compact, the UN Migration Network's Hub is a useful resource.

OBJECTIVE THEME	OBJECTIVE TITLE
1 DATA FOR POLICY	Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies
2 MINIMIZE ADVERSE DRIVERS	Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin
3 INFORMATION PROVISION	Provide adequate and timely information at all stages of migration
4 LEGAL IDENTITY AND DOCUMENTATION	Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation
5 REGULAR PATHWAYS	Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration
6 ETHICAL RECRUITMENT AND DECENT WORK	Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work
7 REDUCE VULNERABILITIES	Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration
8 SAVE LIVES	Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants
9 COUNTER SMUGGLING	Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants
10 ERADICATE TRAFFICKING	Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration
11 MANAGE BORDERS	Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner
12 SCREENING AND REFERRAL	Strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment and referral
13 ALTERNATIVES TO DETENTION	Use migration detention only as a measure of last resort and work towards alternatives
14 CONSULAR PROTECTION	Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle
15 ACCESS TO BASIC SERVICES	Provide access to basic services for migrants

16	INCLUSION AND SOCIAL COHESION	Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion
17	ELIMINATE DISCRIMINATION	Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration
18	SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND RECOGNITION	Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences
19	MIGRANT AND DIASPORA CONTRIBUTIONS	Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries
20	REMITTANCES	Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants
21	DIGNIFIED RETURN AND REINTEGRATION	Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration
22	SOCIAL PROTECTION	Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits
23	INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION	Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration

CROSS-CUTTING THEME	TEXT OF CROSS-CUTTING THEME
PEOPLE-CENTERED	The Global Compact carries a strong human dimension to it, inherent to the migration experience itself. It promotes the well-being of migrants and the members of communities in countries of origin, transit and destination. As a result, the Global Compact places individuals at its core.
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION	The Global Compact is a non-legally binding cooperative framework that recognizes that no State can address migration on its own due to the inherently transnational nature of the phenomenon. It requires international, regional and bilateral cooperation and dialogue. Its authority rests on its consensual nature, credibility, collective ownership, joint implementation, follow-up and review.
NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY	The Global Compact reaffirms the sovereign right of States to determine their national migration policy and their prerogative to govern migration within their jurisdiction, in conformity with international law. Within their sovereign jurisdiction, States may distinguish between regular and irregular migration status, including as they determine their legislative and policy measures for the implementation of the Global Compact, taking into account different national realities, policies, priorities and requirements for entry, residence and work, in accordance with international law.

RULE OF LAW AND DUE PROCESS	The Global Compact recognizes that respect for the rule of law, due process and access to justice are fundamental to all aspects of migration governance. This means that the State, public and private institutions and entities, as well as persons themselves are accountable to laws that are publicly promulgated, equally enforced and independently adjudicated, and which are consistent with international law.
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	The Global Compact is rooted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and builds upon its recognition that migration is a multidimensional reality of major relevance for the sustainable development of countries of origin, transit and destination, which requires coherent and comprehensive responses. Migration contributes to positive development outcomes and to realizing the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially when it is properly managed. The Global Compact aims to leverage the potential of migration for the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the impact this achievement will have on migration in the future.
HUMAN RIGHTS	The Global Compact is based on international human rights law and upholds the principles of non-regression and non-discrimination. By implementing the Global Compact, we ensure effective respect, protection and fulfilment of the human rights of all migrants, regardless of their migration status, across all stages of the migration cycle. We also reaffirm the commitment to eliminate all forms of discrimination, including racism, xenophobia and intolerance against migrants and their families.
GENDER-RESPONSIVE	The Global Compact ensures that the human rights of women, men, girls and boys are respected at all stages of migration, their specific needs are properly understood and addressed and they are empowered as agents of change. It mainstreams a gender perspective, promotes gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, recognizing their independence, agency and leadership in order to move away from addressing migrant women primarily through a lens of victimhood.
CHILD-SENSITIVE	The Global Compact promotes existing international legal obligations in relation to the rights of the child, and upholds the principle of the best interests of the child at all times, as a primary consideration in all situations concerning children in the context of international migration, including unaccompanied and separated children.
WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT APPROACH	The Global Compact considers that migration is a multidimensional reality that cannot be addressed by one government policy sector alone. To develop and implement effective migration policies and practices, a whole-of-government approach is needed to ensure horizontal and vertical policy coherence across all sectors and levels of government.
WHOLE-OF-SOCIETY APPROACH	The Global Compact promotes broad multi-stakeholder partnerships to address migration in all its dimensions by including migrants, diasporas, local communities, civil society, academia, the private sector, parliamentarians, trade unions, National Human Rights Institutions, the media and other relevant stakeholders in migration governance.

GLOBAL MIGRATION INDICATORS
2 0 2 1

GMDAC
IOM Global Migration
Data Analysis Centre

IOM
UN MIGRATION