United Nations | Department of Economic and Social Affairs

International

Migration

2020

Highlights

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division

The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat is a vital interface between global policies in the economic, social and environmental spheres and national action. The Department works in three main interlinked areas: (i) it compiles, generates and analyses a wide range of economic, social and environmental data and information on which States Members of the United Nations draw to review common problems and take stock of policy options; (ii) it facilitates the negotiations of Member States in many intergovernmental bodies on joint courses of action to address ongoing or emerging global challenges; and (iii) it advises interested Governments on the ways and means of translating policy frameworks developed in United Nations conferences and summits into programmes at the country level and, through technical assistance, helps build national capacities.

The Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs provides the international community with timely and accessible population data and analysis of population trends and development outcomes for all countries and areas of the world. To this end, the Division undertakes regular studies of population size and characteristics and of all three components of population change (fertility, mortality and migration). Founded in 1946, the Population Division provides substantive support on population and development issues to the United Nations General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Population and Development. The Population Division also leads or participates in various interagency coordination mechanisms of the United Nations system. It also contributes to strengthening the capacity of Member States to monitor population trends and to address current and emerging population issues.

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Copyright information

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Contents

Notes on regions, development groups, countries or areas

In this report, data for countries and areas are often aggregated in six continental regions: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Northern America, and Oceania. Further information on continental regions is available from https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49/. Countries and areas have also been grouped into geographic regions based on the classification being used to track progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations (see: https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/regional-groups/).

The designation of "more developed" and "less developed", or "developed" and "developing", is intended for statistical purposes and does not express a judgment about the stage in the development process reached by a particular country or area. More developed regions comprise all countries and areas of Europe and Northern America, plus Australia, New Zealand and Japan. Less developed regions comprise all countries and areas of Africa, Asia (excluding Japan), Latin America and the Caribbean, and Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand).

The group of least developed countries (LDCs) includes 47 countries, located in sub-Saharan Africa (32), Northern Africa and Western Asia (2), Central and Southern Asia (4), Eastern and South-Eastern Asia (4), Latin America and the Caribbean (1), and Oceania (4). Further information is available at http://unohrlls.org/about-ldcs/.

The group of Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) includes 32 countries or territories, located in sub-Saharan Africa (16), Northern Africa and Western Asia (2), Central and Southern Asia (8), Eastern and South-Eastern Asia (2), Latin America and the Caribbean (2), and Europe and Northern America (2). Further information is available at http://unohrlls.org/about-lldcs/.

The group of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) includes 58 countries or territories, located in the Caribbean (29), the Pacific (20), and the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea (AIMS) (9). Further information is available at http://unohrlls.org/about-sids/.

The classification of countries and areas by income level is based on gross national income (GNI) per capita as reported by the World Bank (June 2020). These income groups are not available for all countries and areas.

Executive summary

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic affected drastically all forms of human mobility, including international migration. Around the globe, the closing of national borders and severe disruptions to international travel obliged hundreds of thousands of people to cancel or delay plans of moving abroad. Hundreds of thousands of migrants were stranded, unable to return to their countries, while others were forced to return to their home countries earlier than planned, when job opportunities dried up and schools closed. While it is too soon to understand the full extent of the impact of the pandemic on migration trends, the present Highlights indicate that the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic may have reduced the number of international migrants by around 2 million globally by mid-2020, corresponding to a decrease of around 27 per cent in the growth expected from July 2019 to June 2020.

Prior to the disruptions to migration flows caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the number of international migrants had grown robustly over the past two decades. It is estimated that the number of persons living outside of their country of origin reached 281 million in 2020, roughly equal to the size of the entire population of Indonesia, the world's fourth most populous country. Between 2000 and 2010, the number of international migrants increased by 48 million globally, with another 60 million added between 2010 and 2020. Much of this increase was due to labour or family migration. Humanitarian crises in many parts of the world also contributed, with an increase of 17 million in the number of refugees and asylum seekers between 2000 and 2020. In 2020, the number of persons forcibly displaced across national borders worldwide stood at 34 million, double the number in 2000.

Europe was the region with the largest number of international migrants in 2020: 87 million. Northern America hosted the second largest number of migrants, nearly 59 million; followed by Northern Africa and Western Asia, with a total of nearly 50 million. In all other regions, the number of migrants was much smaller. If current trends continue, Northern Africa and Western Asia is likely to overtake Northern America as the region with the second largest number of migrants in the world within the next decades. This shift reflects the increasing diversification of economic opportunities available to migrant workers and it foretells the greater competition that destination countries will likely face in the future to attract migrants, especially highly skilled migrants.

The majority of international migrants originate from middle-income countries. In 2020, nearly 177 million international migrants globally came from a middle-income country, equal to nearly 63 per cent of the total. Of these, nearly 90 million were born in a lower-middle-income country and 88 million in an upper-middle-income country. Some 37 million international migrants, or around 13 per cent of the total, originated from low-income countries. While the number of migrants originating from low-income countries remains small compared to other income groups, it grew rapidly between 2000 and 2020. Much of this increase was driven by humanitarian crises. In 2020, nearly half of all international migrants originating from low-income countries were refugees or asylum seekers. For the other income groups, those forcibly displaced across borders comprised a much smaller share of their total transnational populations.

Diasporas play an important role in the development of their countries of origin by promoting foreign investment, trade, innovation, access to technology and financial inclusion. Remittances sent by migrants also improve the livelihoods of families and communities in countries of origin through investments in education, health, sanitation, housing and other infrastructure. Flows of remittances to low- and middle-income countries are projected to decline in 2020 compared to pre-COVID-19 levels. For many countries, the reduction of remittances is likely to have serious financial and social impacts which, together with the contraction of other international financial flows due to the pandemic, will require national strategies and international cooperation to mitigate their effects.

In 2020, nearly half of all international migrants at the global level were living in their region of origin. Europe had the largest share of intra-regional migration, with 70 per cent of all migrants born in Europe residing in another European country. Sub-Saharan Africa had the second largest share of intra-regional migration globally (63 per cent). By contrast, Central and Southern Asia had the largest share (78 per cent) of its diaspora residing outside the region. Other regions with large shares of their transnational populations residing outside their region of origin included Latin America and the Caribbean (74 per cent) and Northern America (75 per cent).

The spatial distribution of transnational populations varies greatly. India's diaspora, the largest in the world, is distributed across a number of major countries of destination. China and the Russian Federation also have spatially diffused diasporas. By contrast, the transnational populations from countries such as Algeria, Burkina Faso, El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico tend to concentrate in a single or a few countries of destination. Many countries have instituted policy measures to encourage investment by their transnational populations. These measures include streamlined bureaucratic procedures to facilitate diaspora investment, tax exemptions or other financial incentives, and preferential treatment in the allotment of permits, licenses or credit.

Migrant women are important agents of change. They transform social, cultural and political norms and promote positive social change across households and communities. As migrants, women also contribute to the economic development of their countries of origin and destination. In 2020, just under half of all international migrants worldwide were women or girls. While most migrant women move for labour, education or family reasons, many are forced to leave their countries due to conflict or persecution. Women and girls also comprised around half of all persons forcibly displaced across national borders in 2020.

The share of international migrants in the total population by age varies greatly across income groups and geographic regions. In countries where fertility is low or where international migrants represent a large share of the total population, international migrants constitute a larger proportion of all children and adolescents. In many societies, international migrants also comprise a sizable share of the working-age population (aged 20 to 64). International migrants of working age contribute to easing some of the pressure on public pension systems in countries experiencing population ageing. However, for a country with a long history of immigration, in which immigrants tend to remain in the destination country through the working ages and after retirement, the average age of the immigrant population may exceed the national average – in part, because the children of immigrants born in the destination country are not counted as migrants.

After the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, a growing number of countries have focused on providing options for safe, orderly and regular migration, while taking into consideration current and projected national demographic trends and labour market needs. The available evidence suggests that a majority of countries grant highly skilled workers preferential treatment, subjecting them to fewer restrictions regarding admission, length of stay, conditions of employment and admission of family members than low-skilled migrants. Most Governments also allow immigration for family purposes under certain conditions and have developed policies to support family reunification for migrants, consistent with the right to family life and the principle of the best interests of the child. Globally, more than half (54 per cent) of all Governments with available data reported having policies to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration, as called for in target 10.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Introduction

Migration has major impacts on both the people and the places of the migrants' origin and destination. When supported by appropriate policies, migration can contribute to inclusive and sustainable development in both origin and destination countries, while also benefitting migrants and their families. The linkages between migration and development, including the opportunities and challenges that migration brings, are well established and duly acknowledged in a series of landmark agreements adopted by the United Nations Member States, including, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and, most recently, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

Reliable data on migrants and migration are crucial for assessing current and future trends, identifying policy priorities and making informed decisions. Reliable and comprehensive data on migration can help ensure that discussions on migration, at both national and international levels, are based on facts, not myths or mere perceptions. Accurate, consistent and timely data on international migration are also essential to monitor progress in the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals and the objectives of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The Global Compact is the first negotiated global agreement covering all dimensions of migration in a holistic and comprehensive manner, in which Governments have placed a strong emphasis on data by including the "Collection and utilization of accurate and disaggregated [migration] data as a basis for evidence-based policies" as the first of its 23 objectives.

For many years, the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs has provided the international community with regular and timely data on the number of international migrants, estimates of net migration and on Government policies on international migration for countries in all regions of the world. These *Highlights* provide an overview of key findings based on two recent datasets produced by the Population Division: *International Migrant Stock 2020* and data on SDG indicator 10.7.2. The latter were collected jointly with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) through the module on international migration (module III) of the United Nations Twelfth Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development.

Brazil. Shelter and support for Venezuelan refugees during COVID-19 pandemic, 2020/UNHCR.

The destination of international migrants: where international migrants live

The number of international migrants worldwide has continued to grow, but has slowed owing to the COVID-19 pandemic

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic drastically affected all forms of human mobility, including international migration. Around the globe, the closing of national borders and severe disruptions to international land, air and maritime travel obliged hundreds of thousands of people to cancel or delay plans of moving abroad (United Nations, 2020a). Hundreds of thousands of migrants were stranded, unable to return to their countries, while others were forced to return to their home countries earlier than planned, when job opportunities dried up and schools closed. While it is too soon to understand the full extent of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on migration trends, the present analysis indicates that the disruptions caused by the pandemic may have reduced the number of international migrants by around 2 million globally by mid-2020, corresponding to a decrease of around 27 percent in the growth expected from July 2019 to June 2020.[1]

Box 1. Measuring international migration

Two basic measures of international migration are the international migrant stock and international migration flows. Both measures are necessary to assess migration trends and provide complementary insights for policy purposes. The international migrant stock is a measure of the number of persons identified as international migrants at a given point in time. To identify who is an international migrant, either a person's country of birth or country of citizenship is used. When data on country of birth are available, they are generally given precedence because such data reflect a change in the country of residence more accurately than data on country of citizenship. International migrant stocks can be considered from the perspective of both the place of destination and the place of origin. At destination, the stock refers to the number of international migrants present in a given country or region, while for origin, it refers to the number of international migrants originating from a given country or region. The latter are sometimes also referred to as transnational communities or "diaspora". International migration flows refer to the number of persons arriving in (inflows) or departing from (outflows) a given country or region over the course of a specified time period, usually a calendar year (United Nations, 2017).

The present *Highlights* showcase the latest estimates of international migrant stocks produced by the Population Division. Most of the data were obtained or derived from population censuses.[*] Additionally, population registers and nationally representative surveys were used as a source of information on the number and on select demographic characteristics of international migrants.

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*For a more detailed discussion of the coverage and sources of the estimates of international migrant stocks presented in these *Highlights*, see the *Documentation* to the *International Migrant Stock 2020*.

While the COVID-19 pandemic caused major disruptions to migration flows in 2020, the number of international migrants has grown robustly over the past two decades (figure 1). The number of persons living outside of their country of origin reached 281 million in 2020; roughly equal to the size of the entire population of Indonesia, the world's fourth most populous country. Between 2000 and 2010, the number of international migrants increased by nearly 48 million globally, with another 60 million added between

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[1] Assuming zero-growth in the stock of migrants between 1 March and 1 July 2020. For a more detailed discussion of the adjustment due to the COVID-19 pandemic, see the *Documentation* to the *International Migrant Stock 2020*.

2010 and 2020. Much of this increase was due to labour or family migration (OECD, 2020). Humanitarian crises in different parts of the world also contributed, with an increase of 17 million refugees and asylum seekers between 2000 and 2020. In 2020, the number of persons forcibly displaced across national borders worldwide stood at 34 million; double the number in 2000 (UNHCR, 2020). While the numbers of refugees and asylum seekers have grown rapidly in the past two decades, they account for a relatively small share, 12 per cent, of the total number of international migrants globally. In turn, international migrants represent less than 4 per cent of the world's total population, a proportion that, although small, has been increasing steadily over the past two decades.

Figure 1.

Number of international migrants, by World Bank income group at destination, 2000 to 2020
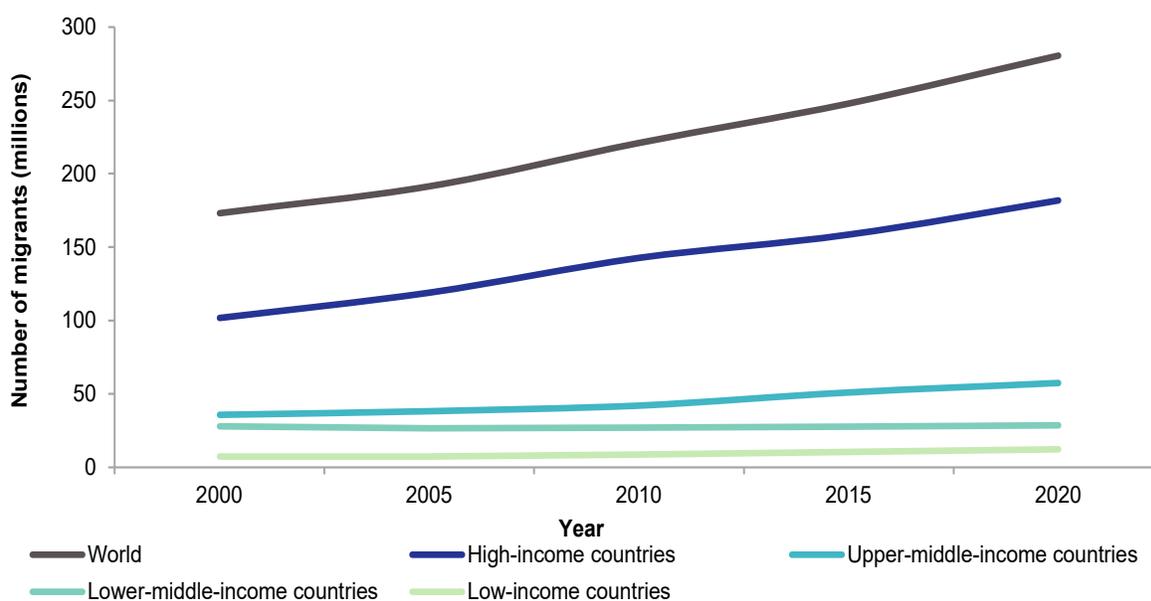
Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2020b). International Migrant Stock 2020.

High-income countries host nearly two thirds of all international migrants

A large majority of international migrants reside in countries offering the greatest opportunities for migrants and their families. As of 2020, 65 per cent of all international migrants worldwide, or 182 million, lived in high-income countries (figure 1). Thirty-one per cent, or 86 million, lived in middle-income,[2] mostly upper-middle-income countries, while low-income countries hosted a comparatively small number of migrants: nearly 12 million, or 4 per cent of the total. The proportion of international migrants in the population of destination countries also varied widely across income groups. Migrants comprised nearly one in every six persons residing in a high-income country, compared to less than 2 per cent in middle-income and in low-income countries.

Over the past 20 years, high-income countries have steadily gained ground as the major destinations of international migrants. Between 2000 and 2020, high-income countries gained 80 million, or 75 per cent, of

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[2] Middle-income countries are comprised of upper-middle-income countries and lower-middle-income countries.

the 107 million international migrants added worldwide during that period. By comparison, middle-income countries added 22 million migrants and low-income countries gained 5 million. The rapid increase in the number of migrants in high-income countries reflects the demand for migrant workers in those countries (see chapter 3) driven in part by the demographic differences, particularly in terms of age structure, that exist between countries at different income levels (see chapter 4).

Figure 2 shows that while high-income countries attracted the largest number of migrants between 2000 and 2020, low- and middle-income countries absorbed the majority of people displaced across national borders due to conflict, persecution, violence or human rights violations. Low- and middle-income countries hosted over four fifths of the world's refugees and asylum seekers in 2020. Furthermore, refugees and asylum seekers comprised around half or more of all the migrants added in those countries between 2000 and 2020 (figure 2).

By contrast, in high-income countries, most of the growth in the total migrant population during the past two decades was driven by other types of migration, including for labour, family reunification and education (OECD, 2020). In 2020, refugees and asylum seekers comprised around 3 per cent of all migrants in high-income countries compared to 25 per cent in middle-income countries and 50 per cent in low-income countries. None of the 22 countries where at least half of all migrants in 2020 were refugees or asylum seekers were high-income countries. The COVID-19 pandemic slowed the growth in the stock of migrants across all income groups (figure 2).

Figure 2.

Change in the number of international migrants, by World Bank income group at destination, 2000 to 2020
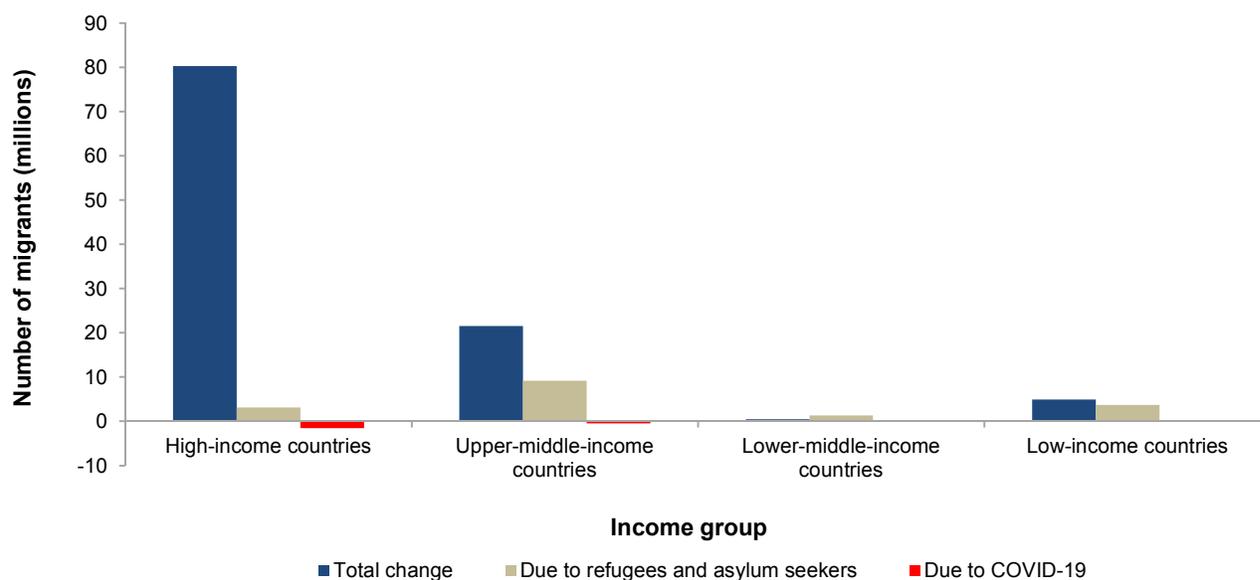
Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2020b). *International Migrant Stock 2020*.
Notes: The category "Refugees and asylum seekers" includes persons displaced abroad.

While it is difficult to distinguish between different types of migrants (Van Hear and others, 2009), and countries of destination often benefit from the skills and fiscal contributions of labour migrants and refugees and asylum seekers alike (Evans and Fitzgerald, 2017; Clemens, Huang and Graham, 2018), the

data presented in these *Highlights* hint to the duality of migration processes taking place, with high-income countries predominantly gaining from the transformative power of labour migration, and low- and middle-income countries shouldering a disproportionate responsibility for providing assistance to populations displaced across national borders as a result of conflict or persecution. The implications of these different migration streams are noteworthy and require appropriate policy responses. Specifically, there is increasing recognition of the development challenges posed by large refugee populations and the need to support shared and inclusive economic growth in refugee-hosting areas. In line with the Global Compact on Refugees, a more predictable and equitable responsibility-sharing is needed, recognizing that a sustainable solution to refugee situations cannot be achieved without international cooperation (see chapter 5).

Europe continues to host the largest number of migrants in the world

In terms of the regional distribution of where migrants live, Europe was home to the largest number of international migrants in the world in 2020: 87 million. Northern America hosted the second largest number of migrants, a total of nearly 59 million; followed by Northern Africa and Western Asia, with nearly 50 million (figure 3). In all other regions, the number of migrants was much smaller.

Figure 3.

Proportionate distribution of international migrants, by region and country or area of destination, 2020
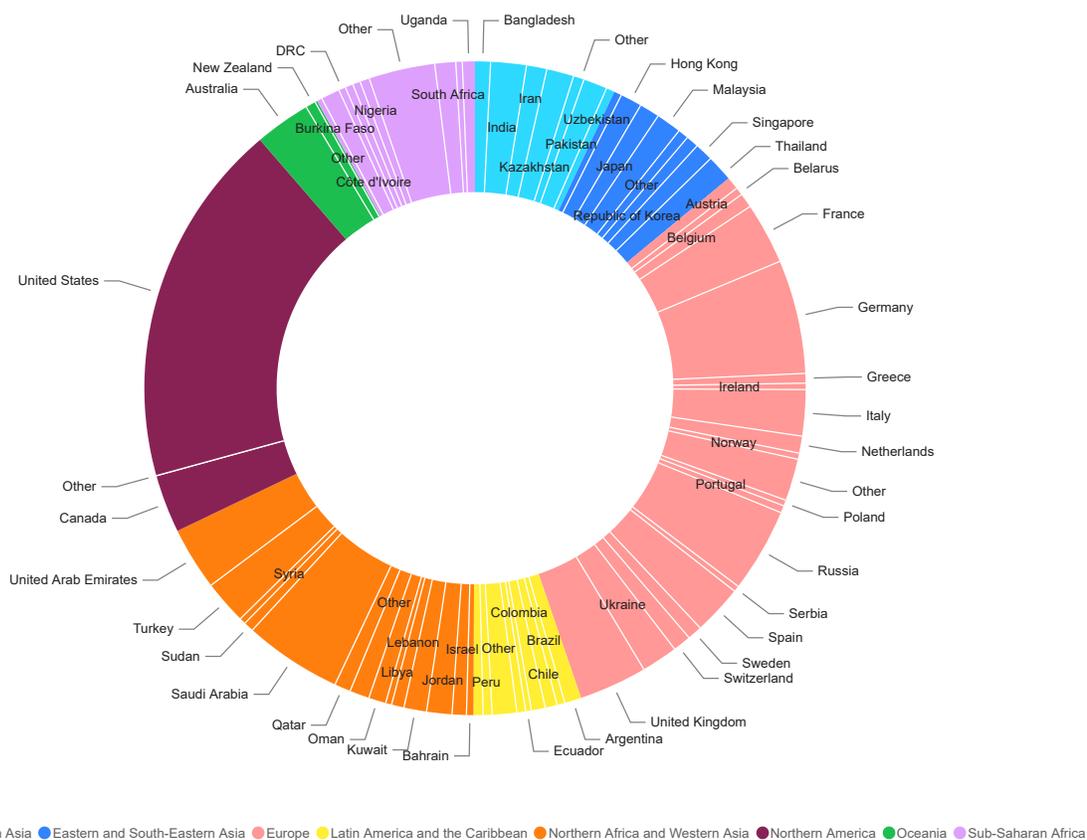
Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2020b). *International Migrant Stock 2020.*
Note: The names of some countries and areas have been abbreviated.

Between 2000 and 2020, Europe and Northern Africa and Western Asia added the largest number of migrants (30 and 29 million, respectively), while Northern America added around 18 million. Of the 29 million migrants added in Northern Africa and Western Asia during that period, around 9 million were refugees or asylum seekers (figure 4). If current trends continue, Northern Africa and Western Asia is likely to overtake Northern America as the region with the second largest number of migrants in the world within the next decades. This shift, hard to foresee twenty years ago, reflects the increasing diversification of economic opportunities available to migrant workers, and foretells the greater competition that destination countries will likely face in the future to attract migrants, especially highly skilled migrants (Boeri and others, 2012; Czaika and Parsons, 2017).

In addition to Europe and Northern Africa and Western Asia, several other regions experienced a marked increase in the size of their migrant populations over the past two decades. Sub-Saharan Africa, Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean each added over 8 million migrants during that period. Latin America and the Caribbean saw the size to its migrant population more than double between 2000 and 2020, driven in part by the inflow of large numbers of displaced people from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Among the eight regions considered in the present analysis, Central and Southern Asia is the only one to have registered a decline in the number of migrants between 2000 and 2020. The age distribution of migrants living in the region, many of whom are above the age of 75, contributed to this decline (see chapter 4).

Figure 4.

Change in the number of international migrants, by region of destination, 2000 to 2020
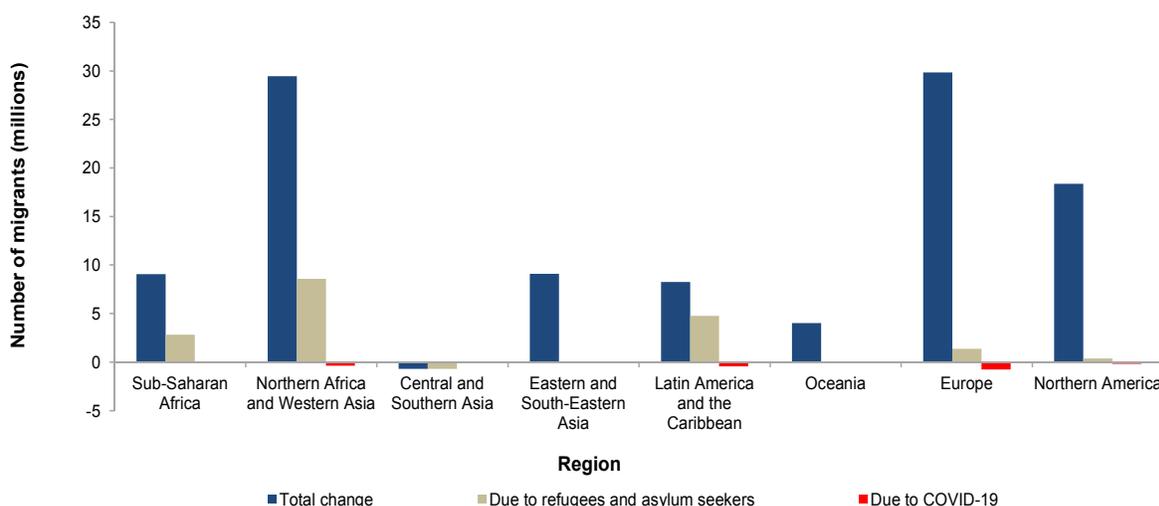
Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2020b). *International Migrant Stock 2020*.
Notes: The category "Refugees and asylum seekers" includes persons displaced abroad.

The effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on the change in migrant stocks, while significant, is comparatively small in all regions of the world. Europe, the region with the largest overall increase in the migrant stock, show the most noticeable COVID-19 effect.

Most of the world's migrants live in a small number of countries

In 2020, two thirds of all international migrants were living in just 20 countries. However, compared to 2000, the share of all international migrants living in just 20 countries has declined, signaling an increasing diversification of migrant destinations. The United States of America remained by far the largest country of destination of international migrants with 51 million migrants in 2020, equal to 18 per cent of the world's total (figures 3 and 5). Germany hosted the second largest number of migrants worldwide (around 16 million), followed by Saudi Arabia (13 million), the Russian Federation (12 million) and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (9 million). Of the top 20 destinations of international migrants in 2020, all but three were high-income or upper-middle-income countries. Europe had the largest number of countries or areas among the 20 major destinations of international migrants, followed by Northern Africa and Western Asia.

Between 2000 and 2020, the number of migrants grew in 179 countries or areas. Germany, Spain, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and the United States of America gained the largest number of migrants during that period. By contrast, in 53 countries or areas, the number of international migrants declined between 2000 and 2020. Armenia, India, Pakistan, Ukraine and the United Republic of Tanzania were among the countries that experienced the most pronounced declines. In many cases, the declines resulted from the old age of the migrant populations or the return of refugees and asylum seekers to their countries of origin.

Figure 5.

Ten countries of destination with the largest number of international migrants, by region, 2000 and 2020
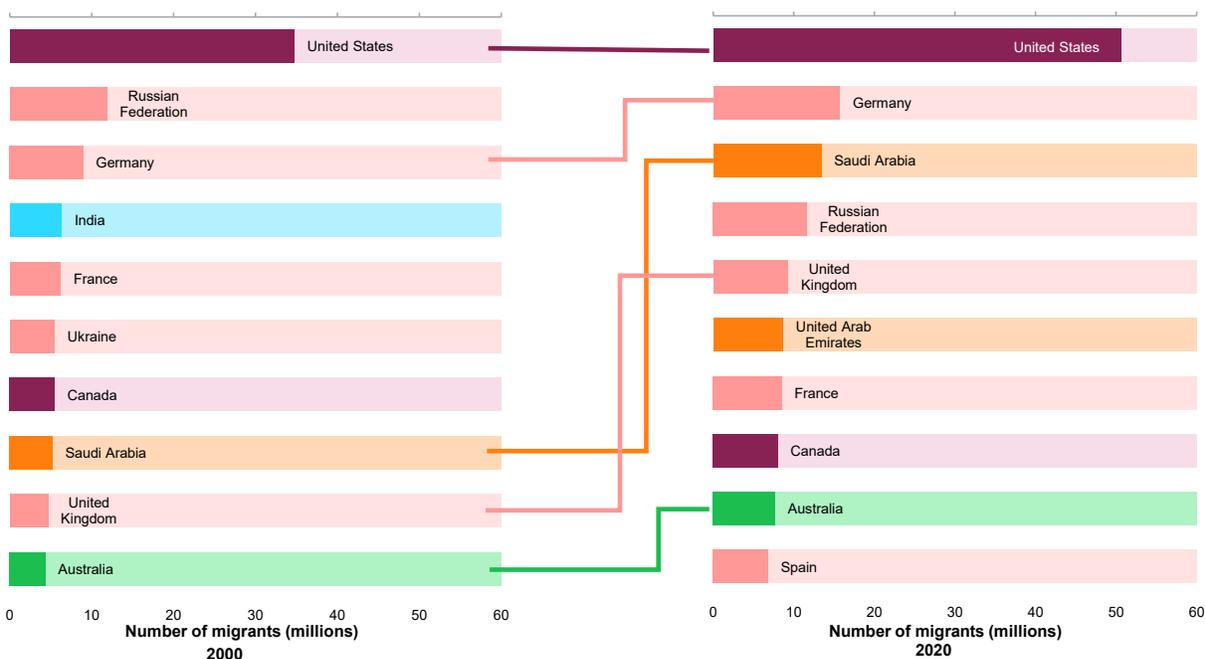

Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2020b). *International Migrant Stock 2020*.
Note: The names of some countries and areas have been abbreviated.

In 2020, Turkey hosted the largest number of refugees and asylum seekers worldwide (nearly 4 million), followed by Jordan (3 million), the State of Palestine (2 million) and Colombia (1.8 million).[3] Other major destinations of refugees, asylum seekers or other persons displaced abroad were Germany, Lebanon, Pakistan, Sudan, Uganda and the United States of America.

In around one in five of all countries or areas, international migrants comprised one fourth or more of the total population. Of the 10 countries with the highest shares of migrants in total population among countries hosting 1 million or more migrants in 2020, 6 were in the region of Northern Africa and Western Asia. These included the member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Migrants contribute to the economies of countries of destination

In countries of destination, migrants often fill critical labour gaps, performing jobs that native workers do not want to perform (Ottaviano, Peri and Wright, 2013). Because migrant workers tend to complement rather than substitute the skill sets of native workers, migration can also increase demand for goods and services in countries of destination (Ruhs and Vargas-Silva, 2018). Further, because migrants are often entrepreneurs, they contribute to creating new jobs in host societies (Docquier, Özden and Peri, 2014). The taxes and contributions to social security programmes that migrants make tend to be greater than the amount they receive in benefits (OECD, 2014).

> **Box 2. International migration policies**
>
> In recent years, a growing number of countries have focused on providing options for safe, orderly and regular migration, while taking into consideration current and projected national demographic trends and labour market needs. Evidence suggests that a majority of countries grant highly skilled workers preferential treatment, subjecting them to fewer restrictions regarding admission, length of stay, conditions of employment and admission of family members than low-skilled migrants (United Nations, 2020d). Most Governments also allow immigration for the purpose of family reunification under certain conditions and have developed policies to support family reunification for migrants, consistent with the right to family life and the principle of the best interests of the child. When options for safe and regular migration are unavailable, migrants often turn to dangerous land and sea routes where they are vulnerable to exploitation by transnational criminal networks involved in human trafficking and migrant smuggling. A growing number of governments have responded to irregular migration by reforming their immigration laws, promoting the return of irregular migrants and implementing regularization programmes (see chapter 5).
>
> In relation to migration for humanitarian reasons, most countries have a system for receiving, processing and identifying those forced to flee across national borders or for granting permission for temporary stay or protection to those forcibly displaced across national borders and those unable to return. In addition to these policy measures, most countries have ratified the key international legal instruments for the protection of refugees. As of November 2020, the 1951 Convention on Refugees and its 1967 Protocol had been ratified by 146 and 147 Member States of the United Nations, respectively.

While migrants contribute to host societies, they are often vulnerable to discrimination, including in terms of wages and labour-force participation (Longhi, 2017; Alfarhan and Al-Busaidi, 2019). Policy measures to protect the rights of migrants, provide access to basic services, address discrimination and promote migrant integration can shape the degree to which migration is associated with inequality within countries

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[3] Including Venezuelans displaced abroad.

of destination (United Nations, 2020c). Measures to remove barriers in accessing education, training and labour-market participation and to promote the recognition of qualifications acquired abroad can also play a key role in maximizing the positive development impacts of migration and reducing its costs (see chapter 5). The inclusion and empowerment of migrants and refugees in development planning is also central to fulfilling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development's pledge to "leave no-one behind".

Globally, the majority of Governments have policies to facilitate the recognition of skills and qualifications acquired abroad and promote fair and ethical recruitment of migrant workers (United Nations, 2020d). Countries have also increasingly taken measures to eliminate discrimination, and to counter acts of racism, violence and xenophobia directed against migrants. In spite of these initiatives, the integration process for migrants can be challenging. In recent years, there has been a rise in anti-immigration sentiment, fueled in part by the misperception that migrants are overrepresented among recipients of welfare benefits and social services (Nauman, and others, 2018). A number of countries have taken steps to promote evidence-based public discourse, with a view to addressing negative perceptions of migrants and dispelling erroneous or poorly informed narratives (United Nations, 2020d).

The origin of international migrants: where international migrants come from

Most migrants come from middle-income countries

According to neoclassical economic theory, migration is primarily a response to wage differentials between countries (Todaro, 1969). If wage differences were the only factor determining migration decisions, low-income countries could be expected to have the largest transnational population per capita.[4] Instead, the present analysis indicates that persons from both the poorest and the richest countries have a larger transnational population per capita compared to middle-income countries.[5] The fact that the relative size of the diaspora is not closely associated with income levels at a country level (figure 6), suggests that, in addition to living standards and wage differentials, migration decisions are shaped by a range of other factors, including individual aspirations, preferences and opportunities (de Haas, 2011; Kureková, 2010).

Figure 6.

Native-born population residing outside relative to those living inside the country or area of origin,* by GDP per capita and World Bank income group at origin, 2020
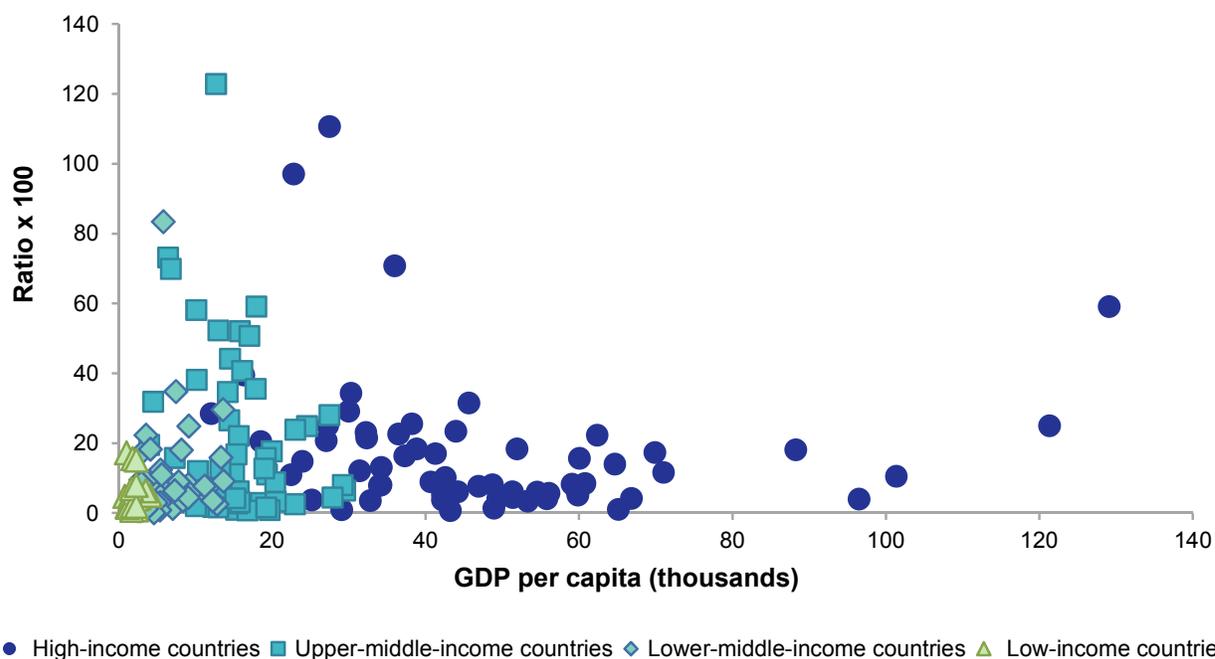
Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2020b). *International Migrant Stock 2020,* and World Bank (2020). *World Development Indicators* (accessed 10/13/2020).
Note: Among countries or areas with known income and country or area of origin. For a small number of countries or areas, mostly islands, the size of the native-born population residing outside is larger than the size of the native-born population inside the country or area of origin. (i.e., the ratio in the figure is greater than 100).
*Per 100 native–born persons living in the country or area or origin.

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[4] Refers to the ratio of native-born population living outside of the country of origin to the native-born population residing in the country of origin.
[5] The ratio of native-born population residing outside versus inside was around 5 per cent for high-income countries taken as a whole, 3 per cent for middle-income countries taken together and around 5.6 per cent for low-income countries taken as a whole.

The present *Highlights* confirm that the majority of international migrants originate from middle-income countries. In 2020, nearly 177 million international migrants globally came from a middle-income country, equal to about 63 per cent of the total (figure 7). Of these, nearly 90 million were born in a lower-middle-income country and 88 million in an upper-middle-income country. Middle-income countries together comprised around three quarters of the global population in 2020. Some 37 million international migrants, or around 13 per cent of the total, originated from low-income countries. Compared to richer countries, people from low-income countries, many of which are also landlocked and face severe structural constraints to sustainable development, frequently have more limited access to established migration networks and are often less able to bear the financial and non-financial costs associated with migration (Gurak and Caces, 1992; McKenzie, 2017). Some 53 million migrants originated from high-income countries, equal to 19 per cent of the total, while for 13 million migrants, or 5 per cent, the origin was unknown.

Figure 7.

Number of international migrants, by World Bank income group at origin, 2000 to 2020
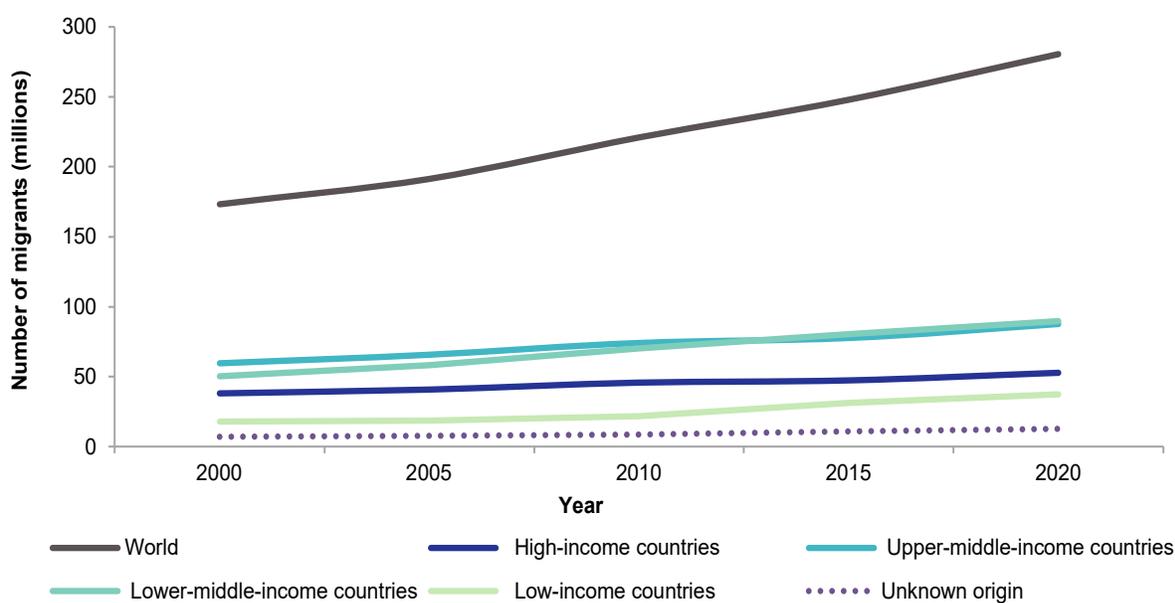
Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2020b). *International Migrant Stock 2020*.

While the number of migrants originating from low-income countries remains small compared to other income groups, it grew rapidly between 2000 and 2020 (figure 7). Much of this increase was driven by humanitarian crises. Persons displaced across national borders as a result of conflict or persecution comprised nearly two thirds of the 19 million migrants from low-income countries added globally over the past two decades. In 2020, nearly half of all international migrants originating from low-income countries were refugees or asylum seekers. For other income groups, those forcibly displaced across borders comprised a much smaller share of their total transnational populations.

Nearly all regions have witnessed large increases in their transnational populations

In 2020, of the 281 million international migrants worldwide, 63 million, or 23 per cent of the total, were born in Europe (figure 8). Central and Southern Asia was the birthplace of the second largest number of international migrants (51 million), followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (43 million), Eastern and South-Eastern Asia (38 million), Northern Africa and Western Asia (38 million) and sub-Saharan Africa (28 million). Relatively few migrants globally originated from Northern America (4 million) or Oceania (2 million).[6]

Figure 8.

Proportionate distribution of international migrants, by region and country or area of origin, 2020
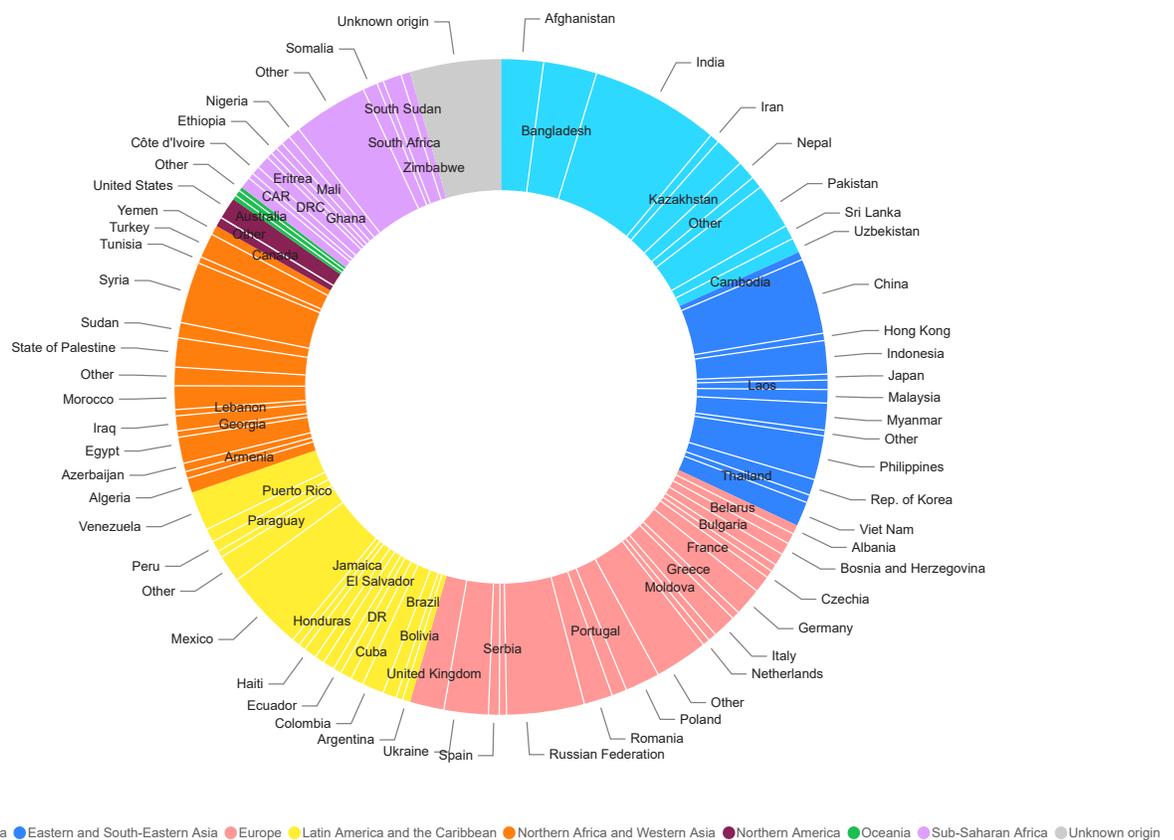
Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2020b). *International Migrant Stock 2020.*
Note: The names of some countries and areas have been abbreviated.

Between 2000 and 2020, nearly all regions, with the exception of Northern America and Oceania, saw the size of their transnational population increase by 12 million or more. Central and Southern Asia witnessed the largest absolute increase, followed by Latin America and the Caribbean and Northern Africa and Western Asia. Most of the recent growth of migrants originating from Central and Southern Asia and Europe was attributable to labour or family-related migration. By contrast, for Latin America and the Caribbean, Northern Africa and Western Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa, humanitarian reasons accounted for a large

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[6.] In addition, some 13 million international migrants are of unknown origin.

share of the recent growth of their diaspora. In 2020, 38 per cent of all international migrants originating from Northern Africa and Western Asia were refugees or asylum seekers. The transnational populations from sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean also comprised a large proportion of persons forcibly displaced across national borders: 26 per cent and 13 per cent, respectively.

India has the largest transnational community in the world

In 2020, 18 million persons from India were living outside of their country of birth (figure 9). Other countries with a large diaspora included Mexico and the Russian Federation (11 million each), China (10 million) and the Syrian Arab Republic (8 million). Of the 20 countries or areas with the largest number of international migrants abroad in 2020, all but 2, Afghanistan and the Syrian Arab Republic, were middle-income or high-income countries. Six of the 20 countries with the largest number of international migrants living abroad were from Europe, 5 from Central and Southern Asia and 4 from Eastern and South-Eastern Asia. Many of the countries with the largest transnational communities were among the main recipients of remittances globally.

Figure 9.

Top ten countries of origin for international migrants, by region, 2000 and 2020
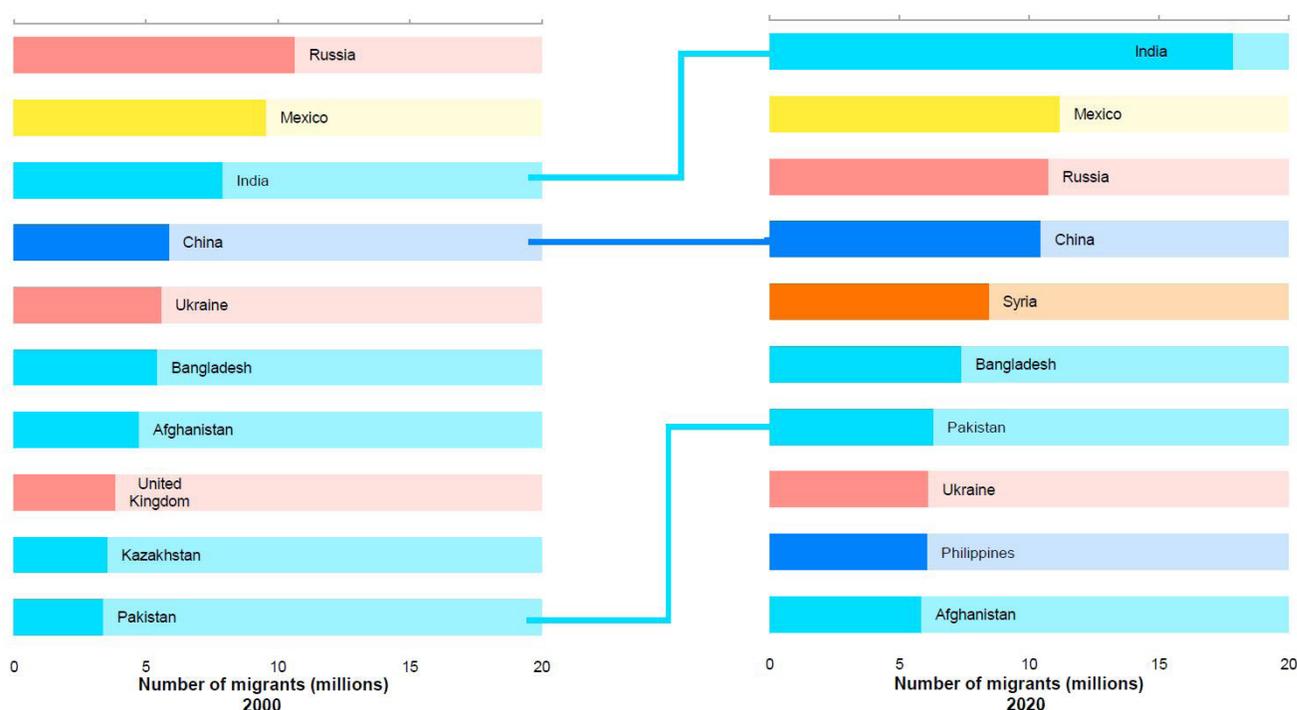
Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2020b). International Migrant Stock 2020.
Note: The names of some countries and areas have been abbreviated.

Between 2000 and 2020, the size of the migrant population abroad grew for nearly all countries and areas of the world. India experienced the largest gain during that period (nearly 10 million), followed, in order of magnitude, by the Syrian Arab Republic, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, China and the Philippines. For both the Syrian Arab Republic and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the increase in the size of their transnational population was primarily due to the large outflow of persons displaced across borders.

In 2020, one in five (or nearly 6.7 million) of all internationally displaced persons as a result of conflict or persecution was born in the Syrian Arab Republic. The second largest number of refugees and asylum seekers globally came from the State of Palestine (5.7 million); equal to one in six of the world's total (UNRWA, 2020; UNHCR, 2020). The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela was the origin of the third largest number of internationally displaced persons, with over 90,000 refugees, nearly 800,000 asylum-seekers and 3.6 million Venezuelans displaced abroad (UNHCR, 2020).

While most countries or areas saw the size of their transnational communities increase between 2000 and 2020, in 12 per cent of all countries or areas the size of their transnational populations shrunk. In some countries, including Angola and Serbia, this decline resulted from the voluntary return and repatriation of refugees to their home countries in the post-conflict years. In others, such as Belarus or Georgia, the decline was primarily due to the older age structure of their transnational community and the mortality rates associated with such an age structure (see chapter 4).

For most countries and areas, the size of their population living abroad is quite small relative to the native-born population in the country of origin (figure 6); for over 20 countries or areas, however, their transnational population was equal to one third or more of the size of their native-born population. Most of those countries or areas are islands in Latin America and the Caribbean or Oceania. In a small number of them, most of which are dependent territories of other United Nations Member States, the number of native-born persons residing outside the country was greater than the number of native-born inside the country.

Diasporas play an important role in the development of countries of origin

Diasporas play an important role in the development of their countries of origin by promoting foreign investment, trade, innovation, access to technology and financial inclusion (Nurse, 2019). Returning migrants, in addition to bringing back the experience and knowledge acquired abroad, often contribute to their societies of origin as entrepreneurs and by creating jobs. Many countries, particularly low- and middle-income countries, are increasingly seeking to leverage their transnational populations through the development of financial instruments and innovative financing mechanisms such as "diaspora bonds", diaspora pension schemes and the securitization of remittance flows (Onyuma, 2020). In countries affected by political conflict, remittances often provide a lifeline, helping people and households in situations of forced displacement cope with economic insecurity (Van Hear, 2014; Vargas-Silva, 2017).

Many countries have instituted policy measures to encourage investment by their transnational populations. These measures include streamlined bureaucratic procedures to facilitate diaspora investment, tax exemptions or other financial incentives and preferential treatment in the allotment of permits, licenses or credit (United Nations, 2020d). In recent years, a number of countries have also carried out initiatives to foster the faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances through competition, regulation and innovation (box 3) and have implemented programmes to increase the availability of remittance services, improve the conditions under which remittances are sent, and support financial literacy and inclusion so that remittances can be used more productively (United Nations, 2020d).

Box 3. Remittances and the COVID-19 pandemic

Remittances include the monetary transfers that migrants send to their families and communities. In 2019, remittances to low- and middle-income countries reached a record $548 billion (World Bank, 2020b). Evidence on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on remittances is still incomplete and seemingly contradictory. On the one hand, recent evidence suggests that at least for some migration corridors, remittance flows, which tend to be counter-cyclical—increasing during economic downturns or after natural disasters (Ratha, 2005)—may have risen (Kalantaryan and McMahon, 2020). On the other hand, flows of remittances to low- and middle-income countries are projected to decline 14 per cent by 2021 compared to pre-COVID-19 levels (World Bank, 2020b).

For many countries, the reduction of remittances due to the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to have devastating financial and social impacts, requiring national strategies and international cooperation to mitigate them (Breisinger and others, 2020; Diao and Wang, 2020; Karim, Islam and Talukder, 2020). The loss of remittances due to COVID-19 could lead to increased poverty, more limited access to services, including health care and education and, as a result, negatively impact the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals for millions of families. The COVID-19 pandemic may also affect the global average cost of sending remittances. Reducing the transaction costs of remittances is one of the targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (target 10.c). There is concern that the costs of transferring remittances could increase along some corridors in 2020 due to the operational challenges faced by remittance service providers as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic (World Bank, 2020a).

The origin and destination of international migrants: international migration across countries, regions and income groups

Most international migration occurs across income groups

Differences in income, wages and opportunities for socioeconomic advancement between host and origin societies are some of the main drivers of international migration. Individual motivations, circumstances and the economic outcomes of migration vary depending on the degree of migration selectivity, the portability and recognition of migrants' skills and qualifications, and the place premium on wages. But in the aggregate, as long as workers move from countries with lower labour productivity to countries with higher labour productivity, global gross domestic product (GDP) is enhanced (Clemens and others, 2019; Pritchett and Hani, 2019).

The present analysis confirms that income differentials among countries play a significant role in shaping migration decisions. In 2020, 165 million migrants, or nearly two thirds of the world total, were living in a country or area that was richer than their country or area of origin. Some 86 million migrants were in a destination that was one income level higher than their origin, while 79 million were in a destination that was two or more income levels higher (figure 10). Nearly 85 million migrants, or slightly less than one third of the total, lived in a destination at the same income level as their origin, while 17 million migrants or 6 per cent of the total, were in a destination that was poorer.

Figure 10.

Number of international migrants who had moved within or across World Bank income groups, 2000 and 2020
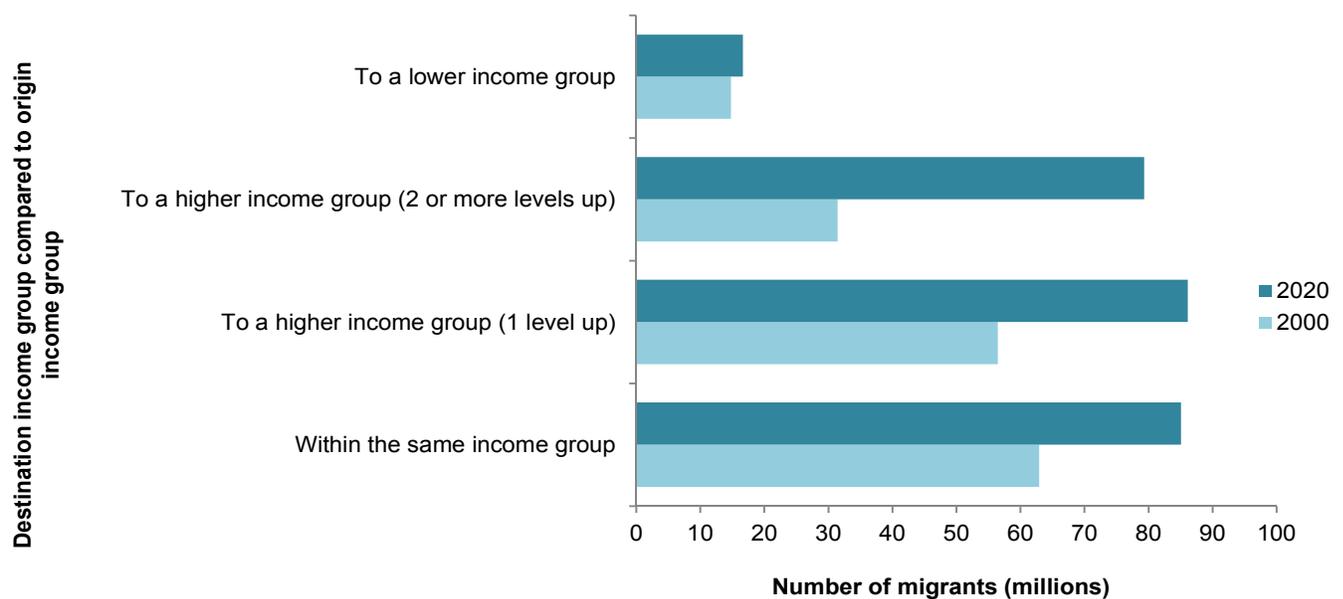
Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2020b). *International Migrant Stock 2020*.
Note: Among countries and areas with known income group.

Between 2000 and 2020, the number of migrants living in a country or area two or more income levels higher than their country or area of origin grew by 48 million; significantly more than any other group (figure 10). This trend may reflect the growing dynamism of diaspora networks from low- and lower-middle-income countries and the role that such networks play in facilitating migration from their countries of origin (Docquier, Peri and Ruyssen, 2014; Morad and Sacchetto, 2019). Native worker shortages in many high- and upper-middle-income countries in sectors such as agriculture, construction, food processing, health and elderly care, and domestic work are other contributing factors (Gheasi and Nijkamp, 2017; Kim, 2017; Oishi, 2020).

While most migration tends to occur from poorer to richer countries, there is considerable heterogeneity in the migration corridors. In 2020, almost 9 out of 10 of the 53 million migrants originating from high-income countries were living in another high-income country (figure 11). International migrants from low-income countries were equally split among countries at different income levels. The fact that the majority of international migrants living in low-income countries, many of which are also landlocked, originated from other low-income countries is consistent with the migration transition theory according to which migrants from poorer societies tend to move shorter distances, often to neighbouring countries (Zelinsky, 1971). It also points to the regulatory, legal and skill barriers that migrants from poorer countries face. Migrants from low-income countries frequently engage in what is referred to as upward stepwise migration, acquiring the required resources, skills and qualifications during intermediary migratory steps before migrating to higher income countries (Paul, 2015).

Figure 11.

Number of international migrants, by World Bank income groups at origin and destination, 2020
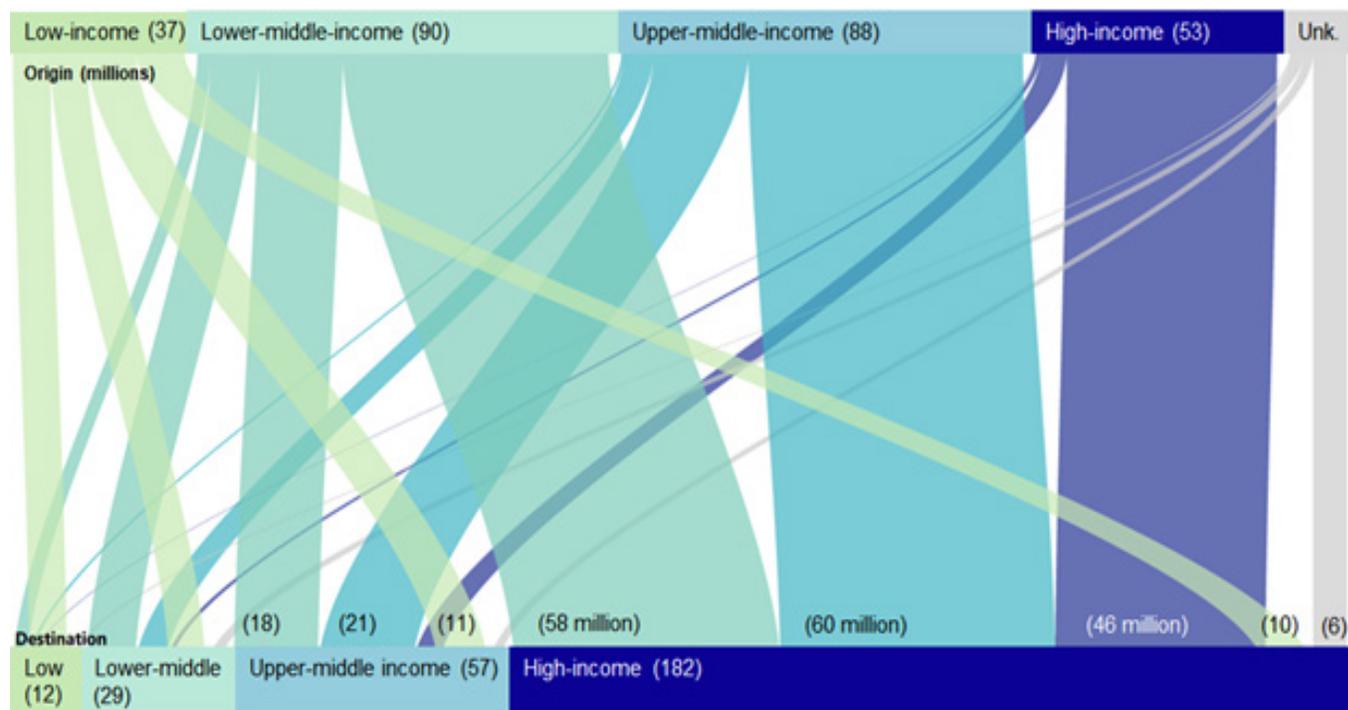
Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2020b). *International Migrant Stock 2020*.
Note: Among countries and areas with known income group. The category "Unk." refers to unknown origin.

Migration often takes place within regions

In 2020, nearly half of all international migrants at the global level were living in their region of origin. Europe had the largest share of intra-regional migration, with 70 per cent of all migrants born in Europe residing in another European country or area (figure 12). Of those migrating between European countries, nearly half moved between member states of the European Union. Another significant fraction (about one fourth) of intra-European migration occurred between the European member states of the Commonwealth of Independent States Free Trade Area (CISFTA).

Figure 12.

Percentage of intra-regional migrants among all international migrants, by region of origin, 2000 and 2020
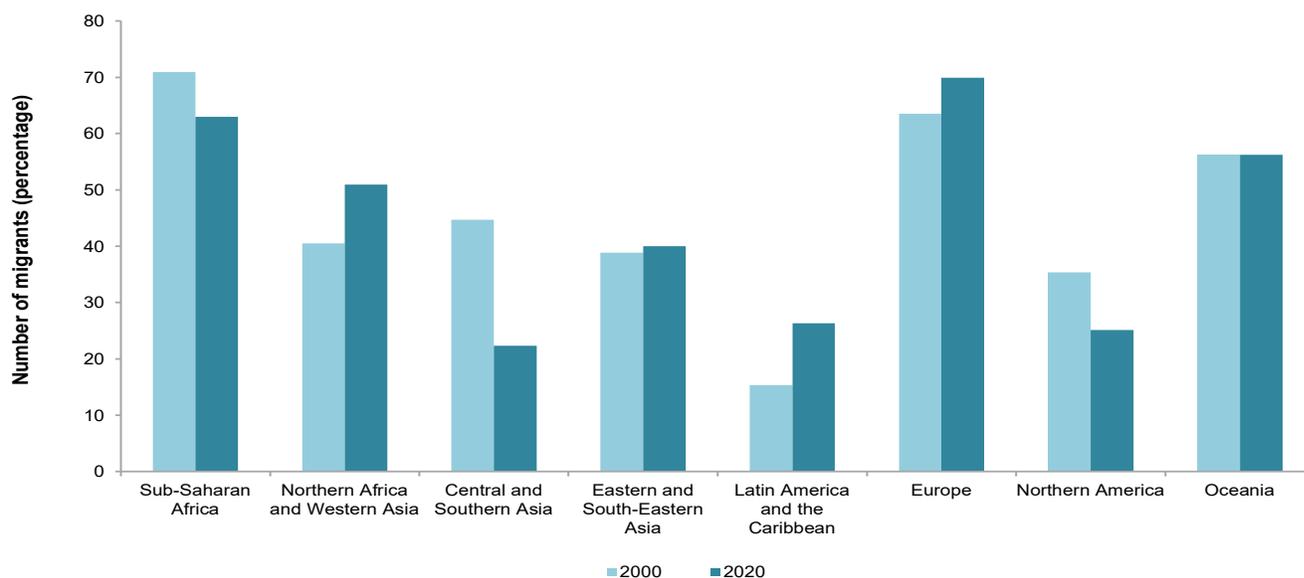
Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2020b). *International Migrant Stock 2020*.
Note: Refers to migrants living in another country or area of their region of origin.

Sub-Saharan Africa had the second largest share of intra-regional migration globally, with 63 per cent of all migrants born in sub-Saharan Africa living in another country or area in the region in 2020. This reality contradicts the common perception that Europe is the main destination of African migration (Flahaux and De Haas, 2016). Refugees and asylum seekers comprised around one third of all international migration within sub-Saharan Africa, pointing to the complex array of factors, including humanitarian ones, shaping migration movements in the region. By contrast, Central and Southern Asia had the largest share (78 per cent) of its diaspora residing outside of the region. Other regions with large shares of their transnational populations residing outside of their region of origin included Latin America and the Caribbean and Northern America. These two regions have a symbiotic relationship in this regard: for Latin America and the Caribbean, the main destination of its diaspora was Northern America, while for Northern America the majority of its transnational population was residing in Latin America and the Caribbean (figure 13). Many of the migrants from Northern America to Latin America and the Caribbean are children of migrants who engage in circular migration between the two regions throughout the life course (Alba, 2013; Hernández-León and others, 2020).

Figure13.

Number of international migrants, by regions of origin and destination, 2020
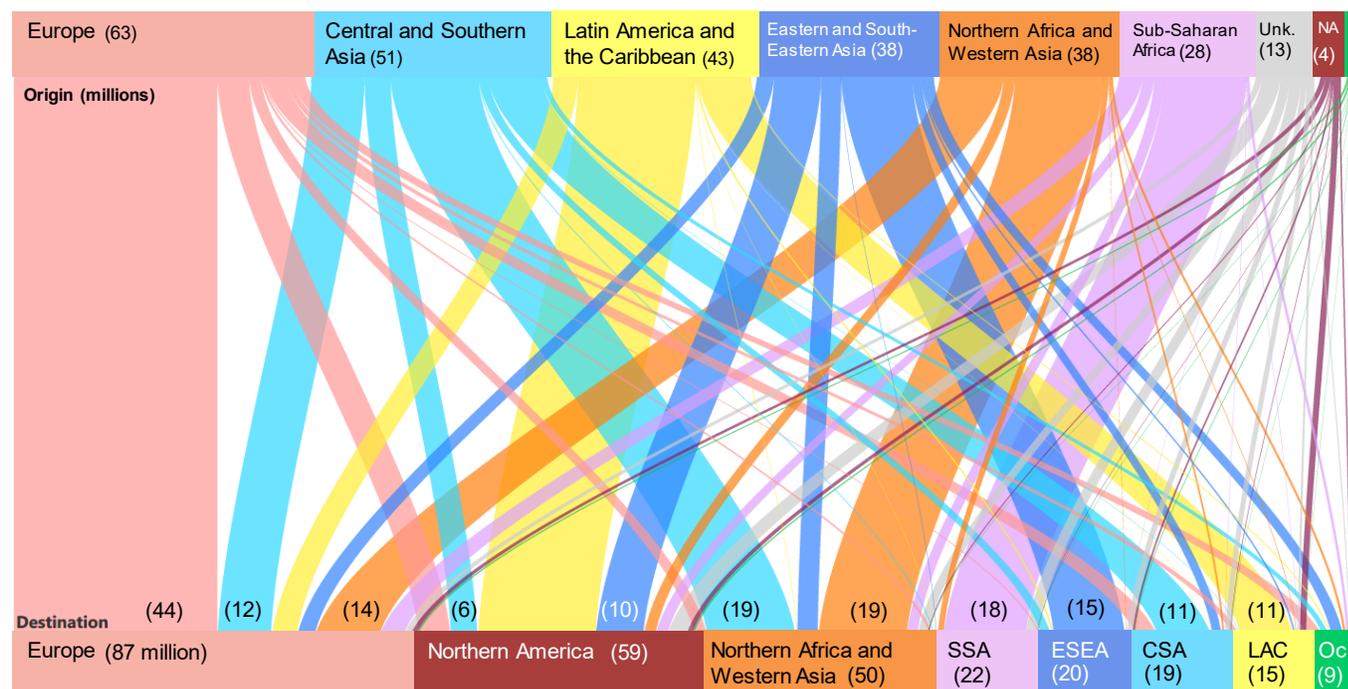
Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2020b). *International Migrant Stock 2020*.
Note: The category "Unk." refers to unknown origin, the category "NA" to Northern America, the category "Oc." to Oceania, the category "SSA" to sub-Saharan Africa, the category "ESEA" to Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, the category "LAC" to Latin America and the Caribbean, the category "CSA" to Central and Southern Asia.

In terms of regional migration corridors, Europe to Europe was the largest globally, with 44 million migrants in 2020, followed by the corridor Latin America and the Caribbean to Northern America, with nearly 26 million (figure 14). Between 2000 and 2020, some regional migration corridors grew very rapidly. The corridor Central and Southern Asia to Northern Africa and Western Asia grew the most, with 13 million migrants added between 2000 and 2020; more than tripling in size. The majority of that increase resulted from labour migration from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka to the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) (Valenta, 2020). While it is too soon to understand the full extent, the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 may have slowed the growth of this regional migration corridor. In many of the GCC countries, tens of thousands of migrant workers in the construction, hospitality, retail and transportation sectors lost their jobs due to the pandemic and were required to return home (UN-Habitat, 2020).

Other regional migration corridors that grew markedly over the past two decades included the intra-European corridor and the intra-Northern African and Western Asian corridor. The intra-European corridor grew by nearly 13 million, driven by the movement of a diverse array of migrants, including high- and low-skilled workers, students and retirees (Trenz and Triandafyllidou, 2017). The rapid increase in intra-European migration and the negative attitudes it engendered have been identified as factors that contributed to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland's referendum to exit the European Union (Dennison and Geddes, 2018). Forced displacement was a more important driver in other regions: more than half of all migrants added between 2000 and 2020 in the intra-Northern African and Western Asian corridor were people displaced across national borders due to conflict or persecution. Most of those refugees and asylum seekers originated from the Syrian Arab Republic.

Figure 14.

Ten largest regional migration corridors, by region of origin and destination, 2000 and 2020
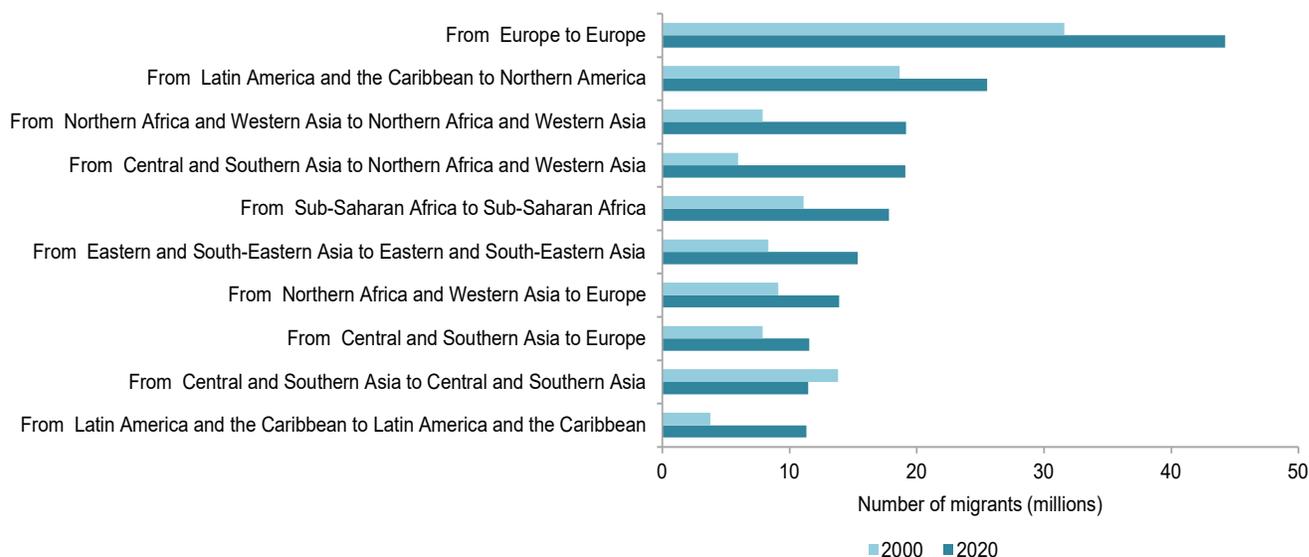
Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2020b). *International Migrant Stock 2020*.
Note: Refers to migrants living in the same region as their country or area of birth. The corridors are the 10 largest for the year 2020.

While many regional migration corridors increased in size between 2000 and 2020, in several others, including the intra-Central and Southern Asian corridor and the corridor from Europe to Northern America, the number of migrants declined. Owing to these changes, the regional balance of major migration corridors changed between 2000 and 2020. In 2000, 3 of the 10 largest regional migration corridors had Northern America as a destination; by 2020 this was the case only for the corridor Latin America and the Caribbean to Northern America. This change hints at the shift towards a more multipolar global economy (Pieterse, 2017). One of the manifestations of this shift is the emergence of major regional hubs for international migrants outside of Europe and Northern America.

The spatial distribution of transnational populations varies greatly

India's diaspora, the largest in the world, is distributed across a number of major countries of destination, with the United Arab Emirates (3.5 million), the United States of America (2.7 million) and Saudi Arabia (2.5 million) hosting the largest numbers of migrants from India. Other countries hosting large numbers of migrants from India included Australia, Canada, Kuwait, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. China and the Russian Federation also have spatially diffused diasporas. In 2020, large numbers of migrants born in China were living in Australia, Canada, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and the United States of America. Migrants from the Russian Federation were residing in several countries of destination, many of which are member states of the CISFTA, including Belarus, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan, as well as Germany and the United States of America.

By contrast, the transnational populations from some countries of origin tend to concentrate a single, or a few, countries of destination. In 2020, international migrants from Mexico, the second largest country of birth of international migrants globally, were highly clustered in the United States of America, which hosted

some 11 million persons born in Mexico, or nearly 97 per cent of all Mexicans living abroad. Other examples of countries where 80 per cent or more of their diaspora settled in just one country included Algeria, with France as the main destination; Burkina Faso, with Côte d'Ivoire as the main destination, and El Salvador and Guatemala, with the United States of America as the main destination.

For countries whose transnational population is mostly comprised of refugees and asylum seekers, the diaspora's spatial distribution is often highly clustered within the region of origin. In 2020, nearly two thirds of all migrants from the Syrian Arab Republic were living in the neighbouring countries of Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan. Germany hosted the largest number of Syrians outside of the region of Northern Africa and Western Asia. The transnational population of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, which increased dramatically in size during the last few years owing primarily to displacement across borders, is disproportionately concentrated in Latin America and the Caribbean, with Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru hosting over two thirds of all migrants from Venezuela.

Demographic characteristics of international migrants

Women comprise slightly less than half of all international migrants

While in the past women often migrated as dependents of spouses or other family members, today, they increasingly migrate on their own for study or work. Many become the principal earners of their families. The remittances sent home by women migrant workers improve the livelihood of their families and contribute to the economies of their communities of origin (box 4).

In 2020, just under half (48 per cent) of all international migrants worldwide were women or girls. While most migrant women move for labour, education or family reasons, many are forced to leave their countries due to conflict or persecution. Women and girls comprised around half of all persons forcibly displaced across national borders in 2020.

Box 4. Gender and international migration

Migrant women are important agents of change. They transform social, cultural and political norms and promote positive social change across households and communities (UN Women, 2017). As migrants, women contribute to the economic development of their countries of origin and destination. By creating opportunities for female employment and increasing the bargaining power for women in households, migration can contribute to promoting gender equality and the empowerment for women in both countries of origin and destination (Antman, 2015; Ferrant and Tuccio, 2015).

Despite the many positive effects of international migration, migrant women remain among the most vulnerable members of society. In many host countries, they face barriers that prevent them from participating fully and equally in social, political and economic life (Hennebry and Petrozziello, 2019). Migrant women often have lower employment rates than native-born women or male migrants and are paid less than their male counterparts (OECD, 2019). Women also face gendered risks of exploitation, violence and abuse, including human trafficking. Most of the estimated 225,000 victims of trafficking worldwide between 2003 and 2016 were females, mainly adult women, but also girls (UNODC, 2018).

In countries of origin, the linkages between migration and gender can have negative social and economic consequences. The emigration of family members, for instance, can hamper the formal labour force participation of non-migrant women, especially those living in rural areas (Audrey and Anda, 2019; Asiedu and Chimbar, 2020). The emigration of women and other family members can also have negative impacts on the mental health and well-being of children who remain behind and of the older persons, many of whom are women, who care for such children (Dreby and Stutz, 2011; Adhikari and others, 2014).

Countries are increasingly recognising the importance of implementing gender-responsive migration policies. Around half of Governments with available data reported having formal mechanisms to ensure that migration policy was gender responsive (United Nations, 2020d). However, such formal mechanisms were still missing in a large number of countries, including many where women and girls outnumber men and boys in the migrant population.

There are considerable differences in the proportion of female migrants among different income groups. In 2020, low-income countries, taken as a whole, hosted slightly more women and girls, while middle- and high-income countries hosted significantly more men and boys. Between 2000 and 2020, the proportion

of women among all international migrants declined slightly, from 49 per cent to 48 per cent. This decline was driven primarily by the growing share of male migrants in high-income and middle-income countries (figure 15). Low-income countries as a whole witnessed an increase in the share of female migrants during that period.

Figure 15.

Proportion of women and girls among all international migrants, by World Bank income group at destination, 2000 and 2020
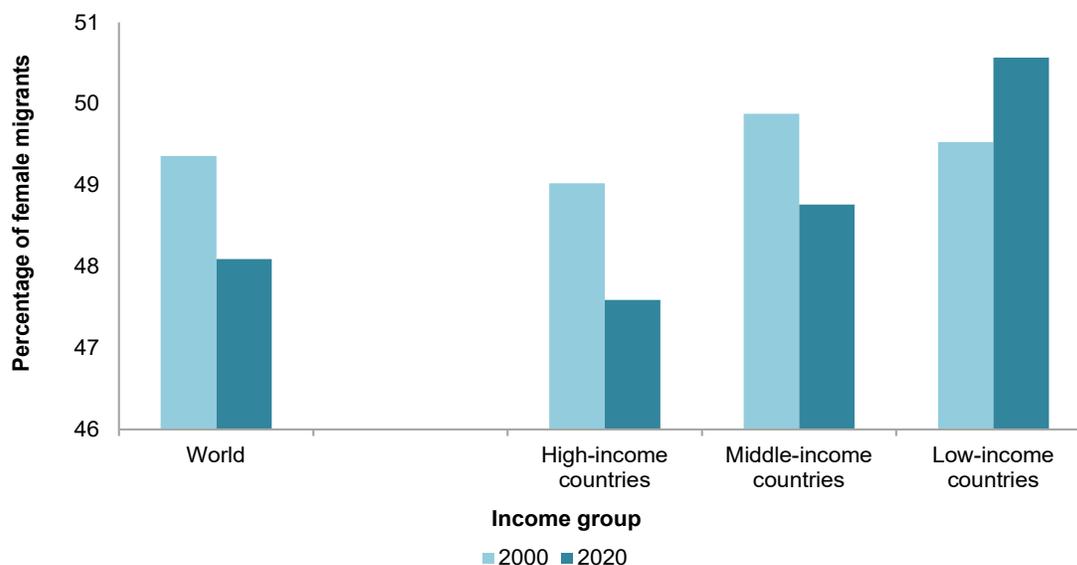
Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2020b). *International Migrant Stock 2020.*

In most regions, the number of male and female migrants in 2020 was roughly equivalent. In Europe, Northern America and Oceania, the number of female migrants slightly exceeded that of male migrants, while in Central and Southern Asia, Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean the share of women and girls among all migrants was slightly less than 50 per cent. By contrast, both sub-Saharan Africa and Northern Africa and Western Asia hosted significantly larger numbers of male migrants compared to female migrants.

Over the past decades, both Europe and Northern America saw the number of female migrants grow more rapidly than the number of male migrants (figure 16). This trend is associated with a number of factors, including sex differentials in survivorship and migration policies. Because women, including migrant women, tend to live longer than men, the ratio of female to male migrants tends to be higher in regions that have a history of permitting and, in some cases, even encouraging migration for permanent settlement or for family reunification. Compared to other regions, Europe, Northern America and Oceania had a higher proportion of older migrants among their migrant population, due in part to such policies. The increasing gender-specific demand for care-related work, resulting from population ageing and changes in the labour force participation and labour preferences of native-born women also help to explain the higher share of female migrants in Europe and Northern America (Barone and Mocetti, 2011; Cortés and Tessada, 2011; Farré and others, 2011; Farris, 2015; OECD, 2005 and 2020). This care-related work, which was previously performed by native-born women, often without pay, is being increasingly taken up by migrant women from lower-income countries. Older women in societies of origin often play an important role in this so-

called global care chain, serving as caregivers to children "left behind" by female migrant workers (Dolbin-MacNab and Yancura, 2018; United Nations, 2019c).

Figure 16.

Difference between the number of male and female international migrants, by region of destination, 2000 to 2020
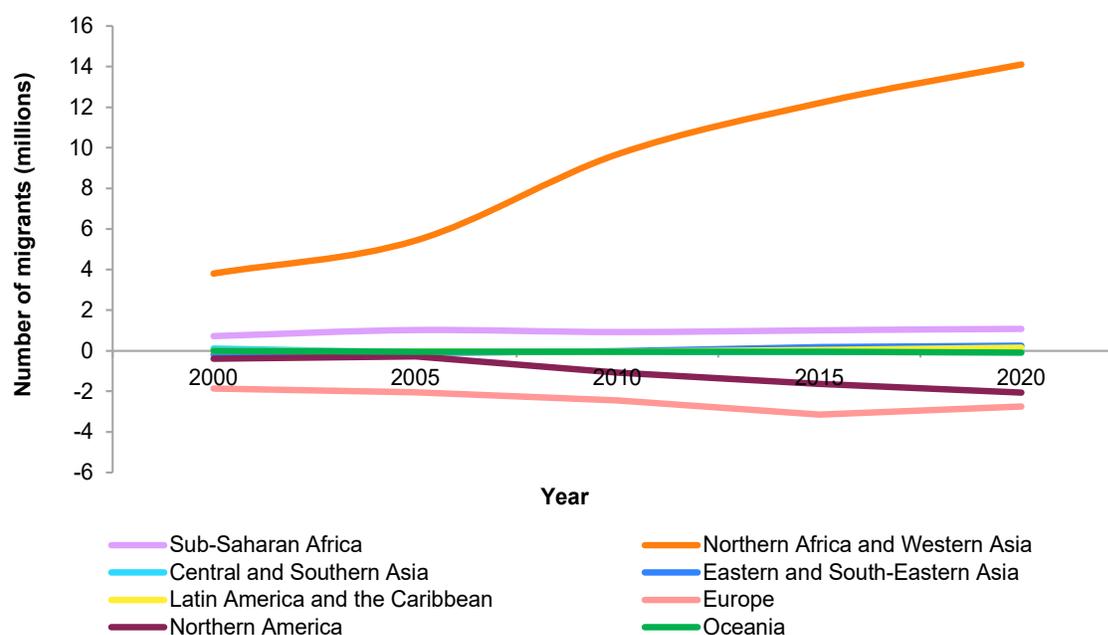
Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2020b). *International Migrant Stock 2020*.
Note: At zero, the number of male and female migrants is the same.

By contrast, in Northern Africa and Western Asia, the number of male migrants increased much more than the number of female migrants over the past two decades (figure 16). This increase resulted from a combination of factors. On the one hand, the demand for male migrant labour in several oil-producing countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) outpaced the demand for female migrant labour (Shah, 2013; Strabac and others, 2018). On the other hand, because many countries in the region rely primarily on temporary labour migration contracts, female family members seldom accompany male migrants. The number of male migrants also grew more than the number of female migrants in sub-Saharan Africa. In many countries of the region, men traditionally migrated alone in response to employment opportunities, while women stayed behind (Oucho, 2006). This trend is changing and there is evidence that women from sub-Saharan Africa are increasingly migrating on their own for work or study (Adepoju, 2000). Both Northern Africa and Western Asia and sub-Saharan Africa hosted a larger share of women and girls among refugees and asylum seekers than men and boys in 2020, further confirming that labour-related migration in the two regions continues to be dominated by males. Overall, the impact of rapidly increasing masculinisation of migration in high- and middle-income countries in Northern Africa and Western Asia and, to a lesser extent, in sub-Saharan Africa, is so pronounced that it is driving the trend of declining share of female migrants at the global level.

The median age of international migrants has been rising

Globally, the median age[7] of all international migrants in 2020 was 39.1 years, significantly higher than for refugees and asylum seekers (19.4 years).[8] The median age of migrants was higher in the high-income countries than in middle-income or low-income countries. Northern America (44.3 years), Europe (43.4 years) and Oceania (41.9 years) had the highest median ages among the eight regions considered. In these regions, the median age of female migrants was higher than that of males. By contrast, international migrants living in sub-Saharan Africa had the lowest median age (31.0 years), followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (31.2 years) and Northern Africa and Western Asia (34.2 years). In both sub-Saharan Africa and Northern Africa and Western Asia, male migrants had a higher median age than female migrants in 2020.

The median age of international migrants worldwide has increased in most regions (figure 17). Northern America experienced the most pronounced increase between 2000 and 2020; nearly 6 years. In Northern Africa and Western Asia, where international migration is often temporary in nature, the median age also increased, but significantly less so, since older migrants often return to their countries of origin and are replaced by subsequent waves of younger immigrants. Conversely, in three regions, the migrant population is becoming younger (figure 17). Between 2000 and 2020, the median age of international migrants declined in Central and Southern Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Oceania. Latin America and the Caribbean witnessed the most marked "rejuvenation" of its international migrant population during that period (nearly 8 years), owing both to the inflow of new, younger migrants and displaced persons from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and to the death or return of older migrants, many of whom had arrived from Europe decades earlier.

The age distribution of international migrants tends to differ from that of their host societies

Compared to the overall population in countries or areas of destination, international migrants tend to be more concentrated in the working ages. In 2020, 73 per cent of all international migrants were between the ages of 20 and 64 years, compared to 57 per cent for the total population. Children and adolescents were underrepresented among international migrants: globally, less than 15 per cent of all international migrants were under 20 years of age, compared to 33 per cent in the overall population. At the other end of the age spectrum, older persons were overrepresented among international migrants compared to the total population. In 2020, 12 per cent of international migrants worldwide were at least 65 years old, compared to 9 per cent in the total population. The difference was more pronounced among females. In 2020, 14 per cent of all female migrants were 65 years or older compared to 10 per cent in the total population of women and girls. These differences are probably due to a combination of factors. The age distribution of immigrants upon arrival, which tends to be concentrated between the ages of 20 and 40, is one of the main reasons. The fact that children born to international migrants in countries of destination are not "foreign-born" and are therefore not classified as migrants from a statistical perspective also contributes to the distinctive age pattern of international migrants compared to the overall population.

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[7] The age that divides a population into two numerically equal groups.
[8] Computation by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division based on data from UNHCR.

Figure 17.

Median age of international migrants, by region of destination, 2000 and 2020
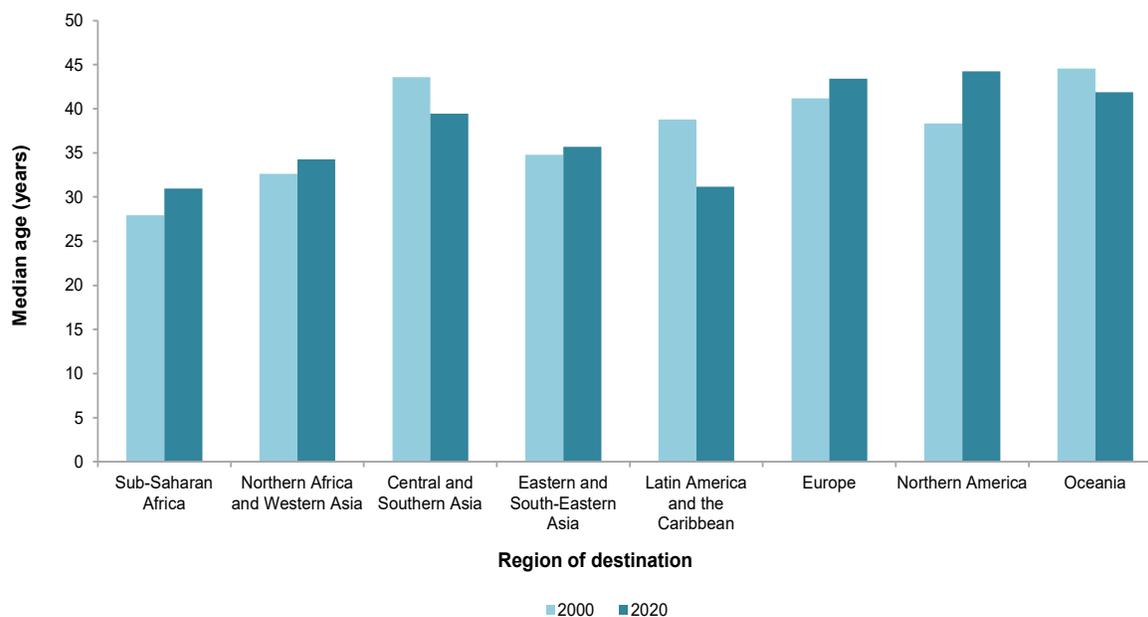
*Source*: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2020b). *International Migrant Stock 2020*.
Note: The data were indexed to the global median age for migrants in 2020. At zero, the median age is the same as the global value.

The share of international migrants in total population by age varies greatly among income groups and regions. In countries where fertility is low or where international migrants represent a large share of the total population, international migrants tend to comprise a larger share of all children and youth. In high-income countries, for instance, international migrants represented over 7 per cent of all children and adolescents in 2020. International migrants also comprised 5 per cent or more of the overall population under age 20 in Europe, Northern Africa and Western Asia, Northern America and Oceania (figure 18).

Children of immigrant families can face economic, societal, institutional and other types of obstacles in accessing education and basic services, especially if they have an irregular immigration status (Green, 2003). Also, they can be confronted with racial stereotypes and prejudice in host societies (Kang, 2010; Crush and Tawodzera, 2014). Addressing language and other barriers faced by migrant children, while preserving their language, values and customs, can promote migrant integration in host societies (Bisin and others, 2011; Portes and Rivas, 2011). Over 9 in 10 Governments among those with data reported having measures to provide migrant children equal access to public education, including equal access to public primary and secondary schools (United Nations, 2020d).

Figure 18.

Share of international migrants in the total population, by broad age group and region of destination, 2020
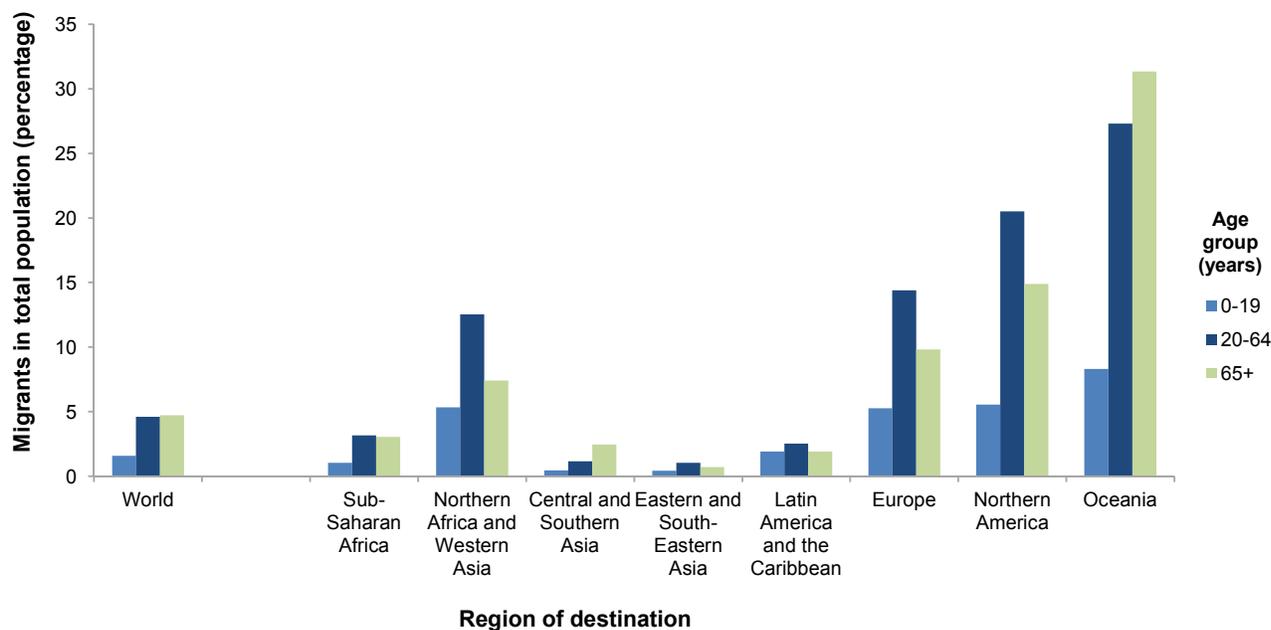
Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019). *World Population Prospects 2019* and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2020b). *International Migrant Stock 2020.*

In many societies, international migrants comprise a sizable share of the working-age population (aged 20 to 64). In high-income countries, nearly 19 per cent of the working-age population were international migrants in 2020. By contrast, in middle- and low-income countries, that proportion was considerably smaller. In terms of regions, Oceania had the highest share of international migrants in its working-age population in 2020 (27 per cent), followed by Northern America (nearly 21 per cent).

International migrants of working age can play an important role in easing the pressure on public pension systems in countries experiencing population ageing (Han, 2013) (box 5). In high-income countries, international migrants of working age contribute to lowering the old-age dependency ratio,[9] an indicator often used to assess the demographic effects on the costs of social and economic support for older persons. In the absence of international migrants, the old-age dependency ratio in high-income countries would have been nearly 3 percentage points higher in 2020. In Europe and Northern America, international migrants also contributed to reducing old-age dependency ratios. In regions with more youthful populations, such as sub-Saharan Africa and Central and Southern Asia, the presence of international migrants tends to have little impact on dependency ratios.

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[9] The ratio of persons aged 65 years or above per 100 persons aged 20 to 64 years. In general, the higher this ratio, the more dependent persons each potential worker needs to support.

Box 5. International migration in the context of ageing societies

The world is ageing rapidly. The world's population aged 65 years or above is projected to increase from 700 million in 2020 to 1.5 billion in 2050, while the median age of the world population is projected to increase from nearly 31 years to over 36 years. Because international migrants often comprise larger proportions of working-age persons compared to the overall population, and, depending on their country of origin, tend to have more children than the native-born population (Adserà and Ferrer, 2015; Woldemicael and Beaujot, 2012), migration can contribute to temporarily slowing the long-term trend toward population ageing in countries of destination. In countries of origin, the emigration of working-age population can help ease pressures on the labour market (David and Marouani, 2016).

Population ageing also underlies the increasing demand for migrant workers in many high-income destination countries, particularly for caregivers and healthcare workers (Cangiano and Shutes, 2010; Kaur, 2010; Seol, 2018). Data from a recent United Nations survey showed that around one third of responding Governments were pursuing immigration policies to address population ageing or to counter long-term population decline (United Nations, 2020a).

Because migrants often remain in countries of destination, international migration can ultimately contribute to population ageing in some host societies. In high-income countries, for instance, over 1 in 10 of those aged 65 or above in 2020 was an international migrant. In Oceania, which had the highest share, international migrants comprised nearly one third of the population aged 65 or above. Many Governments have measures to facilitate the portability of social security benefits to enable migrants to return to countries of origin once they have reached pensionable age, if they wish to do so (United Nations, 2020a). For instance, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) allows social security contributions to accumulate across its member states, helping labour migrants to meet state-pension contribution thresholds. Bilateral social security agreements on the portability of pensions have also been used (Holzmann, 2016).

Congolese expelled from Angola, 2018/ UNHCR

Policies to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people

When supported by appropriate policies, international migration can contribute to inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognises this critical interlinkage in target 10.7 by calling on countries to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, a non-legally binding framework for international cooperation among all relevant actors on migration, also explicitly recognizes the importance of effective, evidence-based migration policies and practices for optimising migration's positive development outcomes.

Box 6. Monitoring progress in achieving SDG target 10.7

At the time when the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted, the indicators to measure progress toward the achievement of target 10.7 had not yet been defined. Shortly thereafter, four complementary indicators were specified to monitor progress in achieving this target:

- Indicator 10.7.1: Recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of monthly income earned in country of destination;

- Indicator 10.7.2: Number of countries with migration policies that facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people;

- Indicator 10.7.3: Number of people who died or disappeared in the process of migration towards an international destination; and

- Indicator 10.7.4: Proportion of the population who are refugees, by country of origin.

Of these, three seek to measure some specific features, barriers or impacts of safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, or the lack thereof. Indicator 10.7.1, for instance, aims to measure a component of the economic costs of migration, which constrain the full realization of sustainable development outcomes. Indicator 10.7.3 points to some of the most serious risks associated with unsafe migration, while indicator 10.7.4 highlights the significance and demographic impact of forced displacement across international borders. Indicator 10.7.2 is different in that it documents the existence of a wide range of national policies for orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration, and how such policies change over time.

The majority of countries have policies to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration

Policies to facilitate orderly, safe regular and responsible migration are widespread. Globally, more than half (54 per cent) of all Governments with data reported having policies to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration, as defined in SDG indicator 10.7.2 (box 7). Central and Southern Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean had the highest share of Governments that met or fully met the criteria for the indicator (figure 19). In both of these regions, however, data coverage was low. Oceania and Northern Africa and Western Asia were the two regions with the highest proportion of countries partially meeting or requiring further progress, followed by Eastern and South-Eastern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

Box 7. Measuring indicator 10.7.2

Indicator 10.7.2, developed by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), in collaboration with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), is comprised of six policy domains based on IOM's Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF). The domains are:

- Domain 1. Migrant rights

- Domain 2. Whole-of government/ Evidence based policies

- Domain 3. Cooperation and partnerships

- Domain 4. Socioeconomic well-being

- Domain 5. Mobility dimensions of crises

- Domain 6. Safe, orderly and regular migration

Each domain is informed by one question, with five subcategories. The subcategories aim to capture key aspects of migration policies at the national level, while allowing the indicator to detect variations across countries and over time. Indicator 10.7.2 is computed as the unweighted average of the values of the 30 sub-categories under the six domains, with values ranging between 0 and 100 per cent. For ease of interpretation and to summarize the results, country-level averages with values of less than 80 are coded as "requires further progress or partially meets"; while values of 80 or more are coded as "meets or fully meets". Regional and global values of indicator 10.7.2 refer to percentages of countries that "require further progress or partially meet", and "meet or fully meet" target 10.7 as conceptualised and measured by indicator 10.7.2.

Data for indicator 10.7.2 are collected through the United Nations Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development. As of September 2019, data were available for 111 countries. The data are self-reported by government entities. Indicator 10.7.2 is not designed to monitor the implementation of migration policies or to assess their impact or effectiveness (United Nations and IOM, 2019a).

Of the countries hosting 1 million or more international migrants in 2020, among those with data, 64 per cent reported meeting or fully meeting the criteria for indicator 10.7.2. However, in nearly all regions there are countries hosting large numbers of international migrants that do not have a wide range of policies to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration. Among the countries where international migrants comprised 10 per cent or more of the total population, 55 per cent partially met or required further progress on indicator 10.7.2. Six of the ten countries where migrants comprised one quarter or more of the total population reported partially meeting or requiring further progress on the criteria for indicator 10.7.2.

Policy measures to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration are uneven across domains

Globally, more than three quarters of Governments with data met or fully met the criteria for domain 3 "cooperation and partnerships" of indicator 10.7.2 (figure 20). A large proportion of Governments reported having policies pertaining to this domain. Specifically, over 9 out of 10 Governments reported having an inter-ministerial coordination mechanism on migration to promote coherence across levels of government

and policy sectors (figure 21). Ninety per cent of Governments indicated that they had bilateral agreements on migration. Formal mechanisms to engage civil society and the private sector in the formulation and implementation of migration policies were reported by 74 per cent of Governments.

Figure 19.

Percentage of countries reporting policies that meet or fully meet the criteria for indicator 10.7.2, by region, 2019
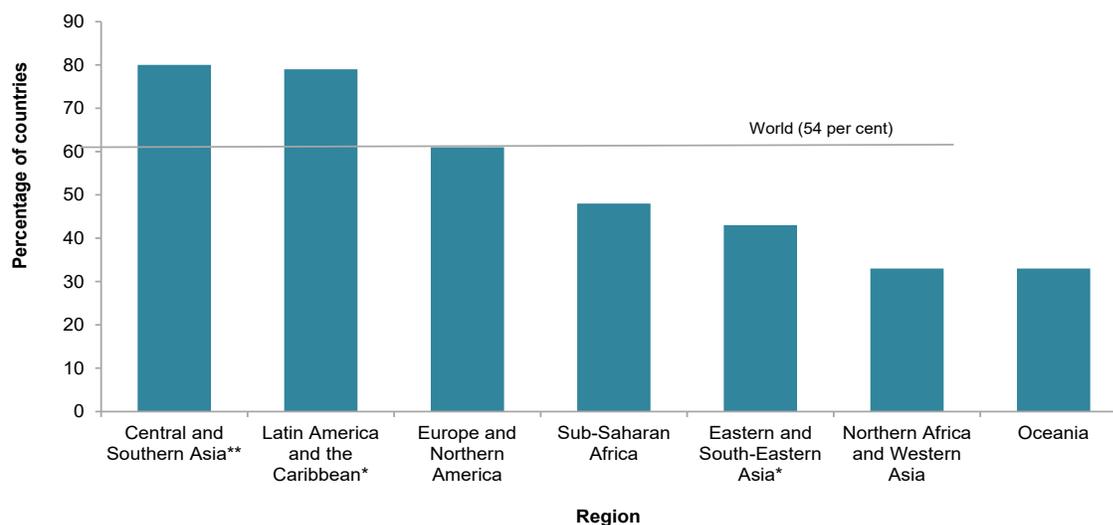
Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division and International Organization for Migration (IOM) (2019b). SDG indicator 10.7.2. Number of countries with migration policies to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, Global and regional aggregates.
Note: Based on 111 countries with available data (as of 1 September 2019). Countries that meet or fully meet the criteria for indicator 10.7.2 are those that reported having migration policy measures for 80 per cent or more of the 30 sub-categories.
* Data are available for less than 50 per cent of countries.
** Data are available for less than 50 per cent of countries as well as for less than 50 per cent of the population.

Among the 111 countries with data, three quarters met or fully met the criteria for domain 6 "safe, orderly and regular migration". Specifically, 84 per cent of countries reported having provisions for the arrival of unaccompanied or separated minors; 80 per cent reported having information and awareness-raising campaigns for prospective migrants; 76 per cent had pre-arrival authorization controls; while 75 per cent indicated having a system to monitor international migrants who overstayed their visas. Nearly all Governments also reported having formal strategies to address human trafficking and migrant smuggling. More than 9 out of 10 responding Governments reported having policy measures to prevent trafficking in persons, to protect or assist the victims of human trafficking and to prosecute or criminalize human trafficking. While such policies have contributed to improving the identification of victims and the effectiveness of criminal justice responses, levels of victim detections and trafficker convictions remain low in many regions (UNODC, 2018).

Figure 20.

Percentage of Governments with policy measures to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, by domain, 2019
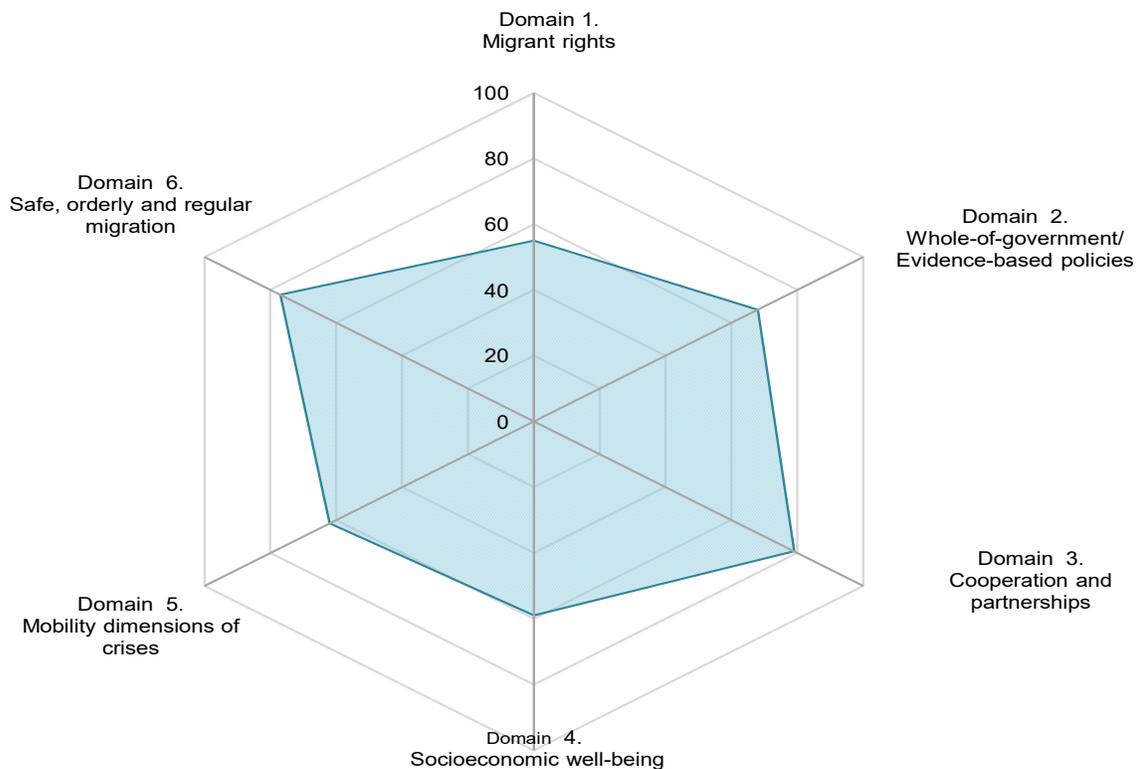
Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division and International Organization for Migration (IOM) (2019b). SDG indicator 10.7.2. Number of countries with migration policies to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, Global and regional aggregates.
Note: Based on 111 countries with available data (as of 1 September 2019). Data refer to countries that meet or fully meet the criteria for indicator 10.7.2 (reported having migration policy measures for 80 per cent or more of the sub-categories per domain). Of the countries that provided data, 20 per cent or more have item non-response for domain 4 of indicator 10.7.2 of 10 per cent or more.

More than two thirds of countries with data met or fully met the criteria for domain 2 "whole-of-government or evidence-based policies". More than 9 out of 10 Governments reported having a dedicated agency to implement national migration policy. Three fourths of the responding Governments also reported having a mechanism to ensure that migration policy is informed by data, appropriately disaggregated, or having an annual national report on migration that includes data collected by the Government or other sources. Formal mechanisms to ensure that migration policy was gender responsive were less prevalent, with 54 per cent of Governments reporting to have such mechanisms.

Figure 21.

Percentage of Governments with policy measures to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, by domain and subcategory, 2019
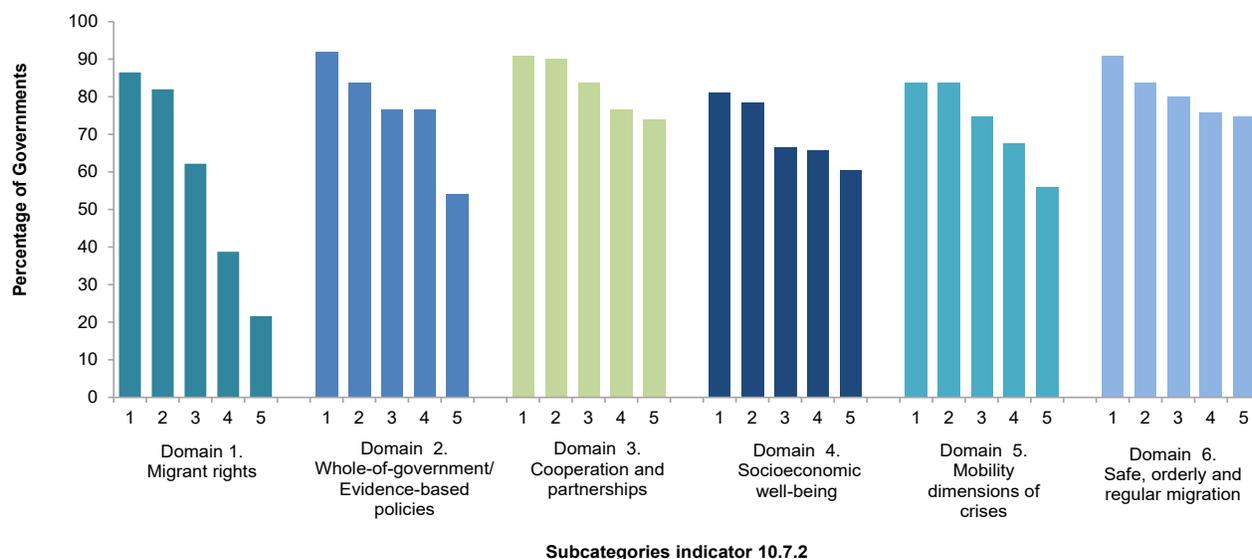
Domain 1. Migrant rights

1 Essential and/or emergency health care

2 Access to justice

3 Public education

4 Equal pay for equal work

5 Social security

Domain 2. Whole-of government/ Evidence based policies

1 A dedicated Government agency to implement national migration policy

2 A national policy or strategy for regular migration pathways, including labour migration

3 A national policy or strategy to promote the inclusion or integration of immigrants

4 A mechanism to ensure that migration policy is informed by data, appropriately disaggregated

5 Formal mechanisms to ensure that the migration policy is gender responsive

Domain 3. Cooperation and partnerships

1 An inter-ministerial coordination mechanism on migration

2 Bilateral agreements on migration, including labour migration

3 Agreements for cooperation with other countries on return and readmission

4 Regional agreements promoting mobility

5 Formal mechanisms to engage civil society and the private sector in the formulation and implementation of migration policy

Domain 4. Socioeconomic well-being

1 Facilitate the recognition of skills and qualifications acquired abroad

2 Promote fair and ethical recruitment of migrant workers

3 Facilitate or promote the flow of remittances

4 Align, through periodic assessments, labour migration policies with actual and projected labour market needs

5 Facilitate the portability of social security benefits

Domain 5. Mobility dimensions of crises

1 System for receiving, processing and identifying those forced to flee across international borders

2 Grant permission for temporary stay or temporary protection for those forcibly displaced across international borders and those unable to return

3 Contingency planning for displaced populations in terms of basic needs such as food, sanitation, education and medical care

4 Specific measures to provide assistance to citizens residing abroad in countries in crisis or post-crisis situations

5 A national disaster risk reduction strategy with specific provisions for addressing the displacement impacts of disasters

Domain 6. Safe, orderly and regular migration

1 Formal strategies to address trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling

2 Provisions for unaccompanied minors or separated children

3 Migration information and awareness-raising campaigns

4 Pre-arrival authorization controls

5 System to monitor visa overstays

Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division and International Organization for Migration (IOM) (2019b). SDG indicator 10.7.2. Number of countries with migration policies to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, Global and regional aggregates.

The majority of Governments with data also reported having measures to address the "mobility dimensions of crises", with 62 per cent of countries meeting or fully meeting the criteria for this domain. More than four fifths of Governments reported having a system for receiving, processing and identifying those forced to flee across international borders or for granting permission for temporary stay or temporary protection for those forcibly displaced across international borders who are unable to return. A smaller proportion of Governments (56 per cent) reported having a national disaster risk reduction strategy with specific provisions for addressing the displacement impacts of disasters.

Fifty-nine per cent of Governments with data met or fully met the criteria for domain 4 "socioeconomic well-being". With regards to the subcategories of this domain, over four fifths of Governments with data reported having policies to facilitate the recognition of skills and qualifications acquired abroad. Measures to promote the recognition of qualifications acquired abroad can reduce "brain waste" (Pires, 2009). A large share of Governments (78 per cent) also reported having measures to promote fair and ethical recruitment of migrant workers, including combatting abusive and fraudulent recruitment practices such as deception about the nature and conditions of work, retention of passports, illegal wage deductions, debt bondage linked to repayment of recruitment fees, threats to workers who want to leave their employers and instilling fears of subsequent expulsion. Two thirds of the 111 Governments with data reported having policy measures to facilitate or promote the flow of remittances. Measures to align labour migration policies with actual and projected labour market needs were reported by 66 per cent of Governments, while 60 per cent indicated that they had measures to facilitate the portability of social security benefits.

Domain 1 "migrant rights" had the lowest proportion of Governments reporting a wide range of policy measures (55 per cent) among the six domains of indicator 10.7.2 (figure 20). The prevalence of policy measures to protect migrant rights was uneven across the subcategories of the domain. More than four fifths of the responding Governments indicated that they provided non-nationals with equal access to essential or emergency health care or justice regardless of their legal immigration status. Most Governments also reported providing equal access to public education (62 per cent) regardless of immigration status. Government measures to promote equal work for equal pay regardless of immigration status, or to provide social security benefits to migrants on par with those received by nationals were less prevalent.

Further progress in this domain will be needed to achieve target 10.7 and the broader goals of the 2030 Agenda, considering that the respect, protection and fulfilment of migrant rights, regardless of migration status, are essential for ensuring that migrants become active, empowered and well-integrated members of societies.

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Annex table

International migrant stock 2020

Region, development group, country or area	Notes	Location code	Type of data	Destination — International migrant stock at mid-year, both sexes combined	International migrant stock as a percentage of the total population, both sexes combined	Refugee and asylum seekers at mid-year, both sexes combined	Female migrants as a percentage of the international migrant stock	Median age at mid-year, both sexes combined	Origin — International migrant stock at mid-year, both sexes combined
WORLD		900		280 598 105	3.6	33 807 795	48.1	39.1	280 598 105
Sub-Saharan Africa		947		22 221 538	2.0	5 893 738	47.6	31.0	28 284 538
Northern Africa and Western Asia		1833		49 767 746	9.5	13 481 636	35.8	34.2	37 563 820
Central and Southern Asia		921		19 427 576	1.0	3 569 787	49.9	39.5	51 229 549
Eastern and South-Eastern Asia		1832		19 591 106	0.8	656 437	49.4	35.7	38 400 740
Latin America and the Caribbean		1830		14 794 623	2.3	4 797 904	49.5	31.2	42 890 481
Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand)		1835		313 069	2.5	11 042	47.1	39.8	565 281
Australia and New Zealand		927		9 067 584	29.9	157 455	50.6	42.0	1 404 924
Europe and Northern America		1829		145 414 863	13.0	5 239 796	51.7	43.8	67 601 621
Developed regions		901		157 253 443	12.4	5 427 839	51.6	43.6	69 815 370
Less developed regions		902		123 344 662	1.9	28 379 956	43.6	34.1	198 125 584
Less developed regions, excluding least developed countries		934		107 159 937	2.0	21 512 833	42.6	34.8	150 520 987
Less developed regions, excluding China		948		118 939 005	2.4	28 075 783	43.2	33.8	186 511 434
Least developed countries		941		16 184 725	1.5	6 867 123	50.4	28.5	47 604 597
Land-locked Developing Countries (LLDC)		1636		15 022 720	2.8	3 638 192	51.6	33.4	35 277 768
Small island developing States (SIDS)		1637		5 678 001	7.9	135 125	47.0	39.7	11 559 408
High-income countries		1503		181 897 756	14.7	6 139 080	47.6	41.2	52 808 019
Middle-income countries		1517		85 895 533	1.5	21 605 961	48.8	35.8	177 395 834
Upper-middle-income countries		1502		57 383 443	2.0	14 748 625	47.9	34.1	87 648 518
Lower-middle-income countries		1501		28 512 090	1.0	6 857 336	50.4	39.8	89 747 316
Low-income countries		1500		12 232 043	1.8	6 062 743	50.6	28.0	37 419 672
AFRICA		903		25 389 464	1.9	7 448 261	47.1	31.0	40 567 163
Eastern Africa		910		7 682 801	1.7	3 632 538	49.9	27.0	12 027 289
Burundi		108	B R	344 767	2.9	87 476	50.7	30.6	551 105
Comoros		174	B	12 496	1.4	~	51.6	35.8	150 823
Djibouti		262	B R	119 738	12.1	30 794	47.5	30.9	18 365
Eritrea		232	I R	13 934	0.4	199	43.9	29.9	802 822
Ethiopia		231	B R	1 085 517	0.9	734 812	50.5	22.1	946 129
Kenya		404	B R	1 050 147	2.0	489 747	49.5	31.3	535 348
Madagascar		450	C R	35 563	0.1	249	43.0	40.1	193 526
Malawi		454	B R	191 362	1.0	44 385	51.1	33.4	311 052
Mauritius*		480	C	28 893	2.3	27	44.6	42.9	182 973
Mayotte*	1	175	B R	111 540	40.9	~	53.7	34.1	6 767
Mozambique		508	B R	338 850	1.1	25 691	51.2	31.3	640 160
Réunion*	2	638	B	131 769	14.7	~	49.3	31.2	3 064
Rwanda		646	B R	513 907	4.0	145 552	49.4	25.6	492 489
Seychelles		690	B	13 050	13.3	~	30.0	39.8	29 258
Somalia		706	I R	58 590	0.4	35 672	44.9	28.3	2 034 221
South Sudan		728	B R	882 252	7.9	301 995	49.7	28.0	2 575 870
Uganda		800	B R	1 720 313	3.8	1 381 122	51.9	15.7	781 440
United Republic of Tanzania*		834	B R	426 017	0.7	271 729	50.0	34.2	327 863
Zambia		894	B R	187 955	1.0	62 596	48.1	34.3	200 700

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division

Region, development group, country or area	Notes	Location code	Type of data	Destination					Origin
				International migrant stock at mid-year, both sexes combined	International migrant stock as a percentage of the total population, both sexes combined	Refugee and asylum seekers at mid-year, both sexes combined	Female migrants as a percentage of the international migrant stock	Median age at mid-year, both sexes combined	International migrant stock at mid-year, both sexes combined
Zimbabwe		716	B R	416 141	2.8	20 492	43.2	39.0	1 243 314
Middle Africa		**911**		**3 861 568**	**2.2**	**1 493 673**	**47.4**	**31.1**	**4 420 662**
Angola		24	B R	656 434	2.0	55 994	49.5	34.0	668 066
Cameroon		120	B R	579 209	2.2	416 208	50.6	26.6	441 015
Central African Republic		140	C R	88 546	1.8	7 486	47.6	32.4	816 668
Chad		148	B R	547 494	3.3	446 431	54.4	30.1	222 303
Congo		178	B R	387 606	7.0	40 086	45.5	32.4	223 767
Democratic Republic of the Congo		180	B R	952 871	1.1	526 931	51.8	31.0	1 832 069
Equatorial Guinea		226	C	230 618	16.4	~	22.9	31.2	128 774
Gabon		266	C R	416 651	18.7	537	35.7	31.0	48 392
Sao Tome and Principe		678	C	2 139	1.0	~	50.1	42.0	39 608
Northern Africa		**912**		**3 167 926**	**1.3**	**1 554 523**	**43.6**	**30.9**	**12 282 625**
Algeria		12	B R	250 378	0.6	100 270	47.2	39.3	2 022 337
Egypt		818	B R	543 937	0.5	324 736	46.8	33.1	3 610 461
Libya		434	C R	826 537	12.0	45 458	28.2	33.8	185 518
Morocco		504	C R	102 358	0.3	9 756	48.5	35.1	3 262 222
Sudan	3	729	B R	1 379 147	3.1	1 071 034	50.3	21.7	2 104 887
Tunisia		788	C R	60 145	0.5	3 269	47.7	38.2	902 268
Western Sahara		732	I	5 424	0.9	~	40.9	37.0	194 932
Southern Africa		**913**		**3 125 072**	**4.6**	**286 093**	**43.3**	**34.2**	**1 278 435**
Botswana		72	B R	110 268	4.7	1 268	43.0	34.7	63 561
Eswatini		748	B R	32 858	2.8	1 921	48.5	36.9	50 039
Lesotho		426	C R	12 060	0.6	226	45.8	33.4	202 164
Namibia		516	B R	109 391	4.3	5 097	46.0	35.5	47 770
South Africa		710	B R	2 860 495	4.8	277 581	43.1	34.1	914 901
Western Africa		**914**		**7 552 097**	**1.9**	**481 434**	**47.0**	**32.3**	**10 558 152**
Benin		204	C B R	394 276	3.3	1 624	52.9	28.6	681 827
Burkina Faso		854	B R	723 989	3.5	25 902	52.4	30.1	1 599 347
Cabo Verde		132	B R	15 788	2.8	~	49.4	40.4	187 558
Côte d'Ivoire		384	C B R	2 564 857	9.7	2 190	44.6	38.5	1 149 298
Gambia		270	B R	215 659	8.9	4 517	47.2	30.9	139 210
Ghana		288	B R	476 412	1.5	13 463	46.6	32.3	1 004 324
Guinea		324	C B R	121 437	0.9	6 956	41.2	26.3	550 790
Guinea-Bissau		624	B R	17 945	0.9	1 888	50.6	26.2	111 790
Liberia		430	B R	87 947	1.7	8 254	42.4	31.2	233 564
Mali		466	B R	485 829	2.4	27 678	49.3	32.0	1 303 511
Mauritania		478	C R	182 286	3.9	86 458	43.4	23.8	130 226
Niger		562	B R	348 056	1.4	217 925	53.5	28.6	399 707
Nigeria		566	C R	1 308 568	0.6	55 199	45.5	29.8	1 670 455
Saint Helena*	4	654	C	437	7.2	~	30.0	..	4 885
Senegal		686	B R	274 929	1.6	16 273	47.0	26.2	693 765
Sierra Leone		694	B R	53 746	0.7	443	43.4	29.6	152 486
Togo		768	C R	279 936	3.4	12 664	49.3	24.7	545 409
ASIA		**935**		**85 618 502**	**1.8**	**16 153 337**	**41.8**	**35.5**	**114 911 484**
Central Asia		**5500**		**5 564 042**	**7.5**	**6 499**	**51.7**	**42.1**	**7 835 504**
Kazakhstan		398	B R	3 732 073	19.9	742	50.4	38.2	4 203 899
Kyrgyzstan		417	B R	199 011	3.1	517	59.6	43.7	774 377
Tajikistan		762	B R	276 031	2.9	5 204	56.8	53.8	586 851

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Turkmenistan		795	B R	194 920	3.2	22	52.6	53.5	242 554
Uzbekistan		860	B R	1 162 007	3.5	14	53.2	50.6	2 027 823
Eastern Asia		906		8 975 729	0.5	363 563	52.3	40.0	14 820 004
China*		156	C	1 039 675	0.1	304 041	38.6	35.4	10 461 170
China, Hong Kong SAR*		344	B R	2 962 492	39.5	130	62.6	49.5	1 007 788
China, Macao SAR*		446	B	403 490	62.1	~	53.6	45.5	145 192
China, Taiwan Province of China*		158		..	..	~	..	..	..
Dem. People's Republic of Korea		408	I	49 549	0.2	~	50.2	41.2	110 377
Japan		392	C	2 770 996	2.2	30 588	51.4	38.2	808 825
Mongolia		496	C R	21 345	0.7	10	33.2	36.7	82 098
Republic of Korea		410	C R	1 728 182	3.4	28 792	44.5	31.5	2 204 554
South-Eastern Asia		920		10 615 377	1.6	292 874	46.8	32.8	23 580 736
Brunei Darussalam		96	B	111 959	25.6	~	43.4	36.6	45 340
Cambodia		116	B R	79 341	0.5	27	46.1	35.6	1 104 819
Indonesia		360	B R	355 505	0.1	13 657	41.9	31.0	4 601 369
Lao People's Democratic Republic		418	C R	48 731	0.7	~	35.6	35.8	1 296 051
Malaysia*		458	C R	3 476 560	10.7	179 744	38.0	28.2	1 860 037
Myanmar		104	C	76 446	0.1	~	45.2	36.5	3 711 751
Philippines		608	C R	225 525	0.2	1 023	48.1	33.6	6 094 307
Singapore		702	B	2 523 648	43.1	~	55.9	44.8	348 464
Thailand		764	B R	3 632 496	5.2	98 418	49.8	31.9	1 086 985
Timor-Leste		626	B R	8 399	0.6	~	39.6	31.4	39 588
Viet Nam		704	C R	76 767	0.1	~	42.1	37.5	3 392 025
Southern Asia		5501		13 863 534	0.7	3 563 288	49.2	38.5	43 394 045
Afghanistan		4	B R	144 098	0.4	72 479	52.0	25.6	5 853 838
Bangladesh		50	B R	2 115 408	1.3	854 820	48.3	30.0	7 401 763
Bhutan		64	B	53 612	6.9	~	15.1	33.4	51 998
India		356	B R	4 878 704	0.4	207 334	53.4	48.0	17 869 492
Iran (Islamic Republic of)		364	C R	2 797 235	3.3	979 468	45.7	21.8	1 325 113
Maldives		462	C	70 079	13.0	~	12.3	33.8	3 715
Nepal		524	B R	487 564	1.7	19 634	69.9	37.8	2 599 701
Pakistan		586	B R	3 276 580	1.5	1 428 147	44.7	46.1	6 328 400
Sri Lanka		144	B R	40 254	0.2	1 406	47.3	26.6	1 960 025
Western Asia		922		46 599 820	16.7	11 927 113	35.3	34.4	25 281 195
Armenia		51	B R	190 349	6.4	18 158	59.0	52.5	958 190
Azerbaijan*		31	B R	252 228	2.5	1 288	52.0	44.8	1 163 922
Bahrain		48	C R	936 094	55.0	312	25.8	36.1	58 270
Cyprus*		196	B	190 366	15.8	31 168	55.0	34.4	173 210
Georgia*		268	B R	79 368	2.0	2 486	56.1	36.7	861 077
Iraq		368	C R	365 766	0.9	286 930	44.9	27.4	2 077 976
Israel		376	B R	1 953 575	22.6	54 611	54.6	56.2	358 691
Jordan		400	C R	3 457 691	33.9	3 017 401	49.2	20.5	814 909
Kuwait		414	C R	3 110 159	72.8	1 765	33.7	37.0	212 271
Lebanon		422	B R	1 712 762	25.1	1 404 312	51.0	29.4	856 814
Oman		512	C R	2 372 836	46.5	563	16.4	33.7	25 099
Qatar		634	C	2 226 192	77.3	303	17.2	34.2	25 705
Saudi Arabia		682	C R	13 454 842	38.6	2 651	31.4	36.9	299 268
State of Palestine*	5	275	B	272 784	5.3	2 319 073	54.3	32.9	4 022 791

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Syrian Arab Republic		760	C R	868 711	5.0	590 594	50.2	35.4	8 457 214
Turkey		792	B R	6 052 652	7.2	3 907 788	48.4	32.0	3 411 408
United Arab Emirates		784	C R	8 716 332	88.1	8 517	26.3	32.7	203 214
Yemen		887	C R	387 113	1.3	279 193	42.3	31.8	1 301 166
EUROPE		**908**		**86 706 068**	**11.6**	**3 851 712**	**51.6**	**43.4**	**63 273 663**
Eastern Europe		923		20 835 402	7.1	106 411	52.1	45.4	32 194 352
Belarus		112	B	1 067 090	11.3	2 877	54.2	51.6	1 483 626
Bulgaria		100	B	184 363	2.7	21 521	50.3	32.5	1 683 074
Czechia		203	C	540 921	5.1	3 725	42.1	39.2	1 026 108
Hungary		348	B	584 567	6.1	6 006	48.2	40.6	714 420
Poland		616	B	817 254	2.2	17 464	52.2	45.1	4 825 096
Republic of Moldova*		498	B	104 438	2.6	530	59.1	51.7	1 159 443
Romania		642	B	705 310	3.7	4 804	45.1	23.8	3 987 093
Russian Federation		643	B	11 636 911	8.0	43 895	50.9	45.7	10 756 697
Slovakia		703	B	197 161	3.6	987	49.0	49.2	419 651
Ukraine*		804	B	4 997 387	11.4	4 602	57.0	47.9	6 139 144
Northern Europe		924		14 973 861	14.1	623 507	51.5	39.2	7 884 780
Channel Islands*	6	830	B	84 087	48.4	~	52.2	44.4	17 158
Denmark*	7	208	B	717 574	12.4	38 992	50.6	37.5	257 025
Estonia		233	B	199 277	15.0	373	56.5	61.3	206 631
Faroe Islands*	8	234	B	6 812	13.9	~	48.0	31.4	12 927
Finland*		246	B	386 052	7.0	31 808	48.5	36.7	311 889
Iceland		352	B	65 424	19.2	1 323	45.4	33.4	43 251
Ireland		372	B	871 256	17.6	15 680	50.1	36.5	734 317
Isle of Man*	9	833	B	43 040	50.6	~	51.2	53.5	12 032
Latvia		428	B	239 422	12.7	724	59.5	64.1	380 010
Lithuania		440	B	145 184	5.3	2 250	49.6	57.1	658 057
Norway*		578	B	852 238	15.7	55 426	48.5	37.6	191 392
Sweden		752	B	2 003 908	19.8	281 869	49.7	39.9	327 581
United Kingdom*	10	826	B	9 359 587	13.8	195 062	52.3	38.9	4 732 510
Southern Europe		925		17 665 688	11.6	684 556	52.7	42.4	14 017 111
Albania		8	B	48 810	1.7	131	49.0	18.6	1 250 451
Andorra		20	C	45 574	59.0	~	48.8	48.4	11 132
Bosnia and Herzegovina		70	I R	36 042	1.1	5 974	53.2	39.7	1 687 639
Croatia		191	B	528 056	12.9	1 383	53.5	54.8	1 039 526
Gibraltar*	11	292	B	11 190	33.2	~	49.5	35.3	13 389
Greece		300	B	1 340 456	12.9	186 166	52.1	43.5	1 088 507
Holy See*		336	I	809	100.0	~	54.0	..	174
Italy		380	B	6 386 998	10.6	254 665	53.6	41.3	3 258 831
Malta		470	B	114 760	26.0	12 601	42.4	35.3	102 793
Montenegro		499	B	70 999	11.3	1 151	60.6	47.5	132 965
North Macedonia		807	B	131 311	6.3	433	58.3	51.4	693 896
Portugal		620	B	1 001 963	9.8	3 466	52.1	43.5	2 081 419
San Marino		674	C	5 543	16.3	~	46.0	35.1	2 407
Serbia*		688	B	823 011	9.4	26 715	56.0	58.9	1 003 962
Slovenia		705	B	277 964	13.4	1 080	41.4	49.2	160 197
Spain*		724	B	6 842 202	14.6	190 791	52.2	40.8	1 489 823

Region, development group, country or area	Notes	Location code	Type of data	Destination					Origin
				International migrant stock at mid-year, both sexes combined	International migrant stock as a percentage of the total population, both sexes combined	Refugee and asylum seekers at mid-year, both sexes combined	Female migrants as a percentage of the international migrant stock	Median age at mid-year, both sexes combined	International migrant stock at mid-year, both sexes combined
Western Europe		926		33 231 117	16.9	2 437 238	50.7	45.3	9 177 420
Austria		40	B	1 738 183	19.3	162 680	51.2	41.5	600 740
Belgium		56	B	2 005 479	17.3	72 570	50.9	41.9	577 463
France*	12	250	B	8 524 876	13.1	510 080	51.5	47.8	2 341 908
Germany		276	B	15 762 457	18.8	1 455 947	49.9	45.7	3 855 268
Liechtenstein		438	B	25 877	67.9	162	51.2	44.0	3 706
Luxembourg		442	B	298 062	47.6	4 357	49.1	42.3	81 757
Monaco		492	B	26 601	67.8	22	51.5	54.7	32 552
Netherlands*	13	528	B	2 358 333	13.8	110 052	51.9	42.3	970 403
Switzerland		756	B	2 491 249	28.8	121 368	50.9	43.8	713 623
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN		904		14 794 623	2.3	4 797 904	49.5	31.2	42 890 481
Caribbean		915		1 605 148	3.7	96 115	46.9	34.8	9 078 772
Anguilla*	14	660	B R	5 715	38.1	11	52.7	35.0	2 505
Antigua and Barbuda		28	B R	29 386	30.0	~	55.4	40.2	66 561
Aruba*	15	533	B R	53 593	50.2	17 008	54.6	40.8	21 456
Bahamas		44	B R	63 583	16.2	30	49.4	40.1	53 793
Barbados		52	B R	34 869	12.1	7	55.1	42.7	99 611
Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba*	16	535	B	26 221	100.0	~	..	..	8 148
British Virgin Islands*	18	92	B R	22 164	73.3	~	51.8	38.3	5 355
Cayman Islands*	19	136	C R	29 242	44.5	101	48.6	41.7	1 908
Cuba		192	B	3 024	0.0	270	56.6	49.6	1 757 300
Curaçao*	20	531	B R	57 210	34.9	16 585	56.4	36.2	7 611
Dominica		212	B	8 284	11.5	~	47.9	28.8	78 191
Dominican Republic		214	B R	603 794	5.6	34 549	36.6	31.5	1 608 567
Grenada		308	B	7 213	6.4	~	54.4	35.8	62 204
Guadeloupe*	21	312	B	90 206	22.5	~	58.0	37.9	12 542
Haiti		332	B R	18 884	0.2	11	44.4	30.1	1 769 671
Jamaica		388	B R	23 629	0.8	126	49.2	28.6	1 118 931
Martinique*	22	474	B R	68 624	18.3	~	57.5	35.9	12 963
Montserrat*	23	500	B	1 379	27.6	~	48.4	40.3	24 582
Puerto Rico*	24	630	B	247 132	8.6	~	53.5	40.9	1 850 529
Saint Barthélemy*		652		..	..	~	..	..	..
Saint Kitts and Nevis		659	B R	7 725	14.5	~	47.4	33.2	50 285
Saint Lucia		662	B R	8 338	4.5	~	52.0	37.2	71 227
Saint Martin (French part)*		663		..	..	~	..	..	..
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines		670	B R	4 738	4.3	38	48.4	33.1	55 525
Sint Maarten (Dutch part)*	25	534	B R	28 845	67.3	9	52.1	37.2	2 191
Trinidad and Tobago		780	B R	78 849	5.6	27 352	50.3	33.7	330 519
Turks and Caicos Islands*	26	796	B R	25 748	66.5	~	48.2	36.4	2 689
United States Virgin Islands*	27	850	B	56 753	54.3	~	52.9	48.0	3 908
Central America		916		2 302 001	1.3	405 184	49.4	26.1	16 198 974
Belize		84	B R	62 043	15.6	2 179	49.7	38.4	52 756
Costa Rica		188	B R	520 729	10.2	114 235	49.4	36.3	150 241
El Salvador		222	B R	42 767	0.7	85	52.4	32.8	1 599 058
Guatemala		320	B R	84 311	0.5	1 048	52.7	36.5	1 368 431
Honduras		340	B R	39 195	0.4	186	47.5	32.7	985 077
Mexico		484	B R	1 197 624	0.9	150 985	49.8	14.4	11 185 737
Nicaragua		558	B R	42 167	0.6	459	48.6	31.2	718 154

Region, development group, country or area	Notes	Location code	Type of data	Destination International migrant stock at mid-year, both sexes combined	International migrant stock as a percentage of the total population, both sexes combined	Refugee and asylum seekers at mid-year, both sexes combined	Female migrants as a percentage of the international migrant stock	Median age at mid-year, both sexes combined	Origin International migrant stock at mid-year, both sexes combined
Panama		591	B R	313 165	7.3	136 007	46.7	33.8	139 520
South America		931		10 887 474	2.5	4 296 605	49.9	31.3	17 612 735
Argentina		32	B R	2 281 728	5.0	185 268	53.4	35.3	1 076 148
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)		68	B R	164 121	1.4	6 594	47.6	24.5	927 244
Brazil		76	B R	1 079 708	0.5	363 676	46.0	35.5	1 897 128
Chile		152	B	1 645 015	8.6	463 310	49.5	31.9	643 800
Colombia		170	B	1 905 393	3.7	1 781 002	49.9	23.8	3 024 273
Ecuador		218	B R	784 787	4.4	503 644	48.2	25.0	1 127 891
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)*	28	238	B	1 957	56.2	~	44.4	33.2	1 518
French Guiana*	29	254	B R	119 249	39.9	~	52.5	37.6	4 595
Guyana		328	B R	31 169	4.0	22 079	53.5	32.3	438 413
Paraguay		600	B R	169 567	2.4	5 298	47.9	36.6	896 484
Peru		604	B R	1 224 519	3.7	867 821	47.5	27.5	1 519 635
Suriname		740	C R	47 801	8.1	1 481	45.0	34.3	273 209
Uruguay		858	B R	108 267	3.1	28 628	53.0	33.7	367 060
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)		862	B R	1 324 193	4.7	67 804	50.7	40.8	5 415 337
NORTHERN AMERICA		905		58 708 795	15.9	1 388 084	51.8	44.3	4 327 958
Bermuda*	30	60	B	19 739	31.7	~	50.7	46.5	21 107
Canada		124	B	8 049 323	21.3	198 772	52.4	49.1	1 292 329
Greenland*	31	304	B	5 899	10.4	~	35.2	42.0	17 866
Saint Pierre and Miquelon*	32	666	B	998	17.2	~	47.6	35.7	433
United States of America*	33	840	B	50 632 836	15.3	1 189 312	51.7	43.6	2 996 223
OCEANIA		909		9 380 653	22.0	168 497	50.5	41.9	1 970 205
Australia and New Zealand		927		9 067 584	29.9	157 455	50.6	42.0	1 404 924
Australia*		36	B	7 685 860	30.1	154 129	50.4	42.8	598 765
New Zealand*	34	554	B	1 381 724	28.7	3 326	51.6	37.1	806 159
Melanesia		928		124 073	1.1	9 861	45.3	40.2	256 021
Fiji		242	B R	14 087	1.6	20	46.0	36.8	233 856
New Caledonia*		540	B	73 141	25.6	~	47.7	44.5	5 839
Papua New Guinea		598	C R	31 068	0.3	9 840	39.2	31.1	4 810
Solomon Islands		90	B R	2 520	0.4	~	43.8	38.6	4 270
Vanuatu		548	B R	3 257	1.1	~	50.3	34.6	7 246
Micronesia		954		118 860	21.7	1 179	49.5	38.1	50 998
Guam*	35	316	B	80 472	47.7	~	48.4	37.1	2 213
Kiribati		296	B	3 126	2.6	~	47.2	28.9	5 103
Marshall Islands		584	B	3 298	5.6	~	38.7	34.0	10 886
Micronesia (Fed. States of)		583	B	2 832	2.5	~	46.5	37.8	24 945
Nauru		520	C R	2 201	20.3	1 179	41.1	35.7	2 454
Northern Mariana Islands*	36	580	B	21 843	38.0	~	58.0	46.4	2 741
Palau		585	B	5 088	28.1	~	43.2	40.3	2 656
Polynesia*		957		70 136	10.3	~	46.3	42.1	258 262
American Samoa*		16	B	23 608	42.8	~	49.0	43.5	1 832
Cook Islands*	37	184	B R	4 579	26.1	~	50.0	30.1	21 106
French Polynesia*	38	258	B R	30 081	10.7	~	43.0	46.8	2 157
Niue*	39	570	B	588	36.3	~	45.7	22.9	5 186
Samoa		882	B R	4 021	2.0	~	49.5	24.0	135 732
Tokelau*	40	772	B R	1 238	91.7	~	52.7	18.0	2 112

Region, development group, country or area	Notes	Location code	Type of data	Destination					Origin
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Tonga		776	B R	3 742	3.5	~	45.4	32.3	74 550
Tuvalu		798	C	239	2.0	~	44.8	34.0	3 670
Wallis and Futuna Islands*	41	876	B R	2 040	18.1	~	49.5	37.5	11 917
OTHER		**2003**							**12 657 151**

Notes:

* For country notes, please refer to https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/content/international-migrant-stock.

A minus sign (-) before a figure indicates a decrease or negative number.

A full stop (.) is used to indicate decimals.

Years given refer to 1 July.

Use of a hyphen (-) between years, for example, 1995-2000, signifies the full period involved, from 1 July of the first year to 1 July of the second year.

An em dash (—) indicates that the magnitude is not zero, but less than half of the unit employed (i.e. is rounded to 0, when in fact it is not 0)

A 0 or 0.0 indicates that the magnitude is zero

Two dots (..) indicate that data are not available or are not rerted separately

The tilde (~) indicates that the data are protected for privacy reasons because the number in the cell or the number used to derive the indicator in the cell is less than five.

Numbers and percentages in this table do not necessarily add to totals because of rounding.

The column labelled "Type of data" indicates the type of data used in deriving the estimates presented.

The codes used are: B, which indicates that estimates were derived from data on the foreign-born population; C, which indicates that estimates were derived from data on foreign citizens; R, which indicates that the number of refugees or persons in refugee-like situations, asylum seekers or Venezuelans displaced abroad as reported by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) or, where appropriate, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) were added to the estimates, and I, which indicates that there were no data on international migrants for the country or area concerned and that the estimates presented were imputed.

1. For statistical purposes, the foreign-born population includes persons born in Regions of Metropolitan France and in French Guiana, French Polynesia, Guadeloupe, Martinique, New Caledonia, Réunion, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, Saint Barthélemy, Saint Martin (French part), and Wallis and Futuna Islands.

2. For statistical purposes, the foreign-born population includes persons born in Regions of Metropolitan France and in French Guiana, French Polynesia, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, New Caledonia, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, Saint Barthélemy, Saint Martin (French part), and Wallis and Futuna Islands.

3. The estimates for 1990 to 2005 refer to Sudan and South Sudan.

4. For statistical purposes, the foreign-born population includes persons born in United Kingdom, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Channel Islands, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Gibraltar, Isle of Man, Montserrat, and Turks and Caicos Islands.

5. Including East Jerusalem. Refugees are not part of the foreign-born migrant stock in the State of Palestine.

6. For statistical purposes, the foreign-born population includes persons born in United Kingdom, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Gibraltar, Isle of Man, Montserrat, Saint Helena, and Turks and Caicos Islands.

7. For statistical purposes, the foreign-born population includes persons born in Faroe Islands, and Greenland.

8.   For statistical purposes, the foreign-born population includes persons born in Denmark and Greenland.

9.   For statistical purposes, the foreign-born population includes persons born in United Kingdom, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Channel Islands, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Gibraltar, Montserrat, Saint Helena, and Turks and Caicos Islands.

10.   For statistical purposes, the foreign-born population includes persons born in Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Channel Islands, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Gibraltar, Isle of Man, Montserrat, Saint Helena, and Turks and Caicos Islands.

11.   For statistical purposes, the foreign-born population includes persons born in United Kingdom, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Channel Islands, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Isle of Man, Montserrat, Saint Helena, and Turks and Caicos Islands.

12.   For statistical purposes, the foreign-born population includes persons born in French Guiana, French Polynesia, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, New Caledonia, Réunion, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, Saint Barthélemy, Saint Martin (French part), and Wallis and Futuna Islands.

13.   For statistical purposes, the foreign-born population includes persons born in Aruba, Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba, Curaçao, and Sint Maarten (Dutch part).

14.   For statistical purposes, the foreign-born population includes persons born in United Kingdom, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Channel Islands, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Gibraltar, Isle of Man, Montserrat, Saint Helena, and Turks and Caicos Islands.

15.   For statistical purposes, the foreign-born population includes persons born in the Netherlands, Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba, Curaçao, and Sint Maarten (Dutch part).

16.   The estimates of migrant stock for 1990 to 2000 refer to the former Netherlands Antilles. The estimates of the migrant stock for 2005 refer to the former Netherlands Antilles without Sint Maarten (Dutch part).

17.   For statistical purposes, the foreign-born population includes persons born in the Netherlands, Aruba, Sint Eustatius and Saba, Curaçao, and Sint Maarten (Dutch part).

18.   For statistical purposes, the foreign-born population includes persons born in United Kingdom, Anguilla, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Channel Islands, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Gibraltar, Isle of Man, Montserrat, Saint Helena, and Turks and Caicos Islands.

19.   For statistical purposes, the foreign-born population includes persons born in United Kingdom, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Channel Islands, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Gibraltar, Isle of Man, Montserrat, Saint Helena, and Turks and Caicos Islands.

20.   For statistical purposes, the foreign-born population includes persons born in the Netherlands, Aruba, Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba, and Sint Maarten (Dutch part).

21.   For statistical purposes, the foreign-born population includes persons born in Regions of Metropolitan France and in French Guiana, French Polynesia, Martinique, Mayotte, New Caledonia, Réunion, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, Saint Barthélemy, Saint Martin (French part), and Wallis and Futuna Islands.

22.   For statistical purposes, the foreign-born population includes persons born in Regions of Metropolitan France and in French Guiana, French Polynesia, Guadeloupe, Mayotte, New Caledonia, Réunion, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, Saint Barthélemy, Saint Martin (French part), and Wallis and Futuna Islands.

23.   For statistical purposes, the foreign-born population includes persons born in United Kingdom, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Channel Islands, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Gibraltar, Isle of Man, Saint Helena, and Turks and Caicos Islands.

24.   For statistical purposes, the foreign-born population includes persons born in the 50 states of the United States of America, the District of Columbia, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands.

25.   For statistical purposes, the foreign-born population includes persons born in the Netherlands, Aruba, Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba, and Curaçao.

26. For statistical purposes, the foreign-born population includes persons born in United Kingdom, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Channel Islands, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Gibraltar, Isle of Man, Montserrat, and Saint Helena.

27. For statistical purposes, the foreign-born population includes persons born in the 50 states of the United States of America, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and Northern Mariana Islands.

28. For statistical purposes, the foreign-born population includes persons born in United Kingdom, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Channel Islands, Gibraltar, Isle of Man, Montserrat, Saint Helena, and Turks and Caicos Islands.

29. For statistical purposes, the foreign-born population includes persons born in Regions of Metropolitan France and in French Polynesia, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, New Caledonia, Réunion, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, Saint Barthélemy, Saint Martin (French part), and Wallis and Futuna Islands.

30. For statistical purposes, the foreign-born population includes persons born in United Kingdom, Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Channel Islands, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Gibraltar, Isle of Man, Montserrat, Saint Helena, and Turks and Caicos Islands.

31. For statistical purposes, the foreign-born population includes persons born in Denmark and Faroe Islands.

32. For statistical purposes, the foreign-born population includes persons born in Regions of Metropolitan France and in French Guiana, French Polynesia, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, New Caledonia, Réunion, Saint Barthélemy, Saint Martin (French part), and Wallis and Futuna Islands.

33. For statistical purposes, the foreign-born population includes persons born in Puerto Rico, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands.

34. For statistical purposes, the foreign-born population includes persons born in Cook Islands, Niue, and Tokelau.

35. For statistical purposes, the foreign-born population includes persons born in the 50 states of the United States of America, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Northern Mariana Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands.

36. For statistical purposes, the foreign-born population includes persons born in the 50 states of the United States of America, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the United States Virgin Islands.

37. For statistical purposes, the foreign-born population includes persons born in New Zealand, Cook Islands, and Tokelau.

38. For statistical purposes, the foreign-born population includes persons born in Regions of Metropolitan France and in French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, New Caledonia, Réunion, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, Saint Barthélemy, Saint Martin (French part), and Wallis and Futuna Islands.

39. For statistical purposes, the foreign-born population includes persons born in New Zealand, Cook Islands, and Tokelau.

40. For statistical purposes, the foreign-born population includes persons born in New Zealand, Cook Islands, and Niue.

41. For statistical purposes, the foreign-born population includes persons born in Regions of Metropolitan France and in French Guiana, French Polynesia, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, New Caledonia, Réunion, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, Saint Barthélemy, and Saint Martin (French part).

International Migration 2020 Highlights present key facts and messages regarding international migration globally and by region during 2000-2020, based on the 2020 revision of the international migrant stock data set, which provides updated estimates of numbers of persons living outside their country of birth, classified by age, sex and origin, for 232 countries and areas. These *Highlights* also review policies and programmes to promote planned and well-managed migration and provide an overview of SDG indicator 10.7.2 on the number of countries with migration policies to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, used for measuring progress toward the achievement of SDG target 10.7.