International migration and development: Past, present, future

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Regional Consultation on International Migration in the Arab Region
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Change in working age population (2015 – 2050)

- Africa: 138% increase, -12% decrease
- Asia: 106% increase, 10% increase
- Europe: -20%, -21%
- Latin America and the Caribbean: 17% increase, -8%
- Northern America: 5%, 9%
- Oceania: 29%, 37%

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Components of population change - Africa and Europe compared

**Europe**
Migration is slowing population decline (but not halting)

**Africa**
Migration is reducing population growth (but little impact)

*Total net population change*

*Net international migration*

*Natural change*
Who is an international migrant?
(UNDESA, 1998. Recommendation on statistics of international migration)

• Anyone who changes her/his country of residence
  – Part of this definition:
    • A physical move
    • Minimum duration of stay (1 year or more)
  – Not part of this definition:
    • Reason (work, family, study, asylum, etc.)
    • Legal status

• How to measure?
  – Foreign-born population as counted in the population census
Who is a refugee?
(1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees)

• Refugee definition (art. 1):
  • well-founded fear of being persecuted
  • reasons: race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion
  • outside country of nationality and unable to return

• Non-refoulement (art. 33):
  • No country shall expel or return ('refouler') a refugee to a territory where his life or freedom would be threatened on account of his race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion
Number of international migrants

International migrant stock, 1990-2050 (millions)
Proportion of international migrants in total population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2050</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proportion</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Growth rate</td>
<td>-</td>
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International migrants as a percentage of total population, 2015

Migrant stock as a percentage of the total population

- Less than 1 per cent
- Between 1 and 5 per cent
- Between 5 and 10 per cent
- Between 5 and 10 per cent
- More than 10 per cent

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Fig. 1 Displacement in the 21st century | 2000-2014 (end-year)

Refugees and asylum-seekers  Internally displaced persons
People newly displaced during the year*

Responsibility sharing for refugees

Ratio of refugee population to gross domestic product per capita (PPPs)
Migration in the 2030 Agenda
(10 out of 169 targets are “migration-related”)

**Figure 2. Migration in the sustainable development goals and targets**

- Strengthen and retain the health workforce in developing countries (3.c)
- Increase the number scholarships for study abroad (4.b)
- Eradicate human trafficking (5.2, 8.7, 16.2)
- Protect labour rights of migrant workers (8.8)
- Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration (10.7)
- Reduce transaction costs of remittances (10.c)
- Establish legal identity, including through birth registration (16.9)
- Disaggregate data by migratory status (17.18)

**Figure 3. Migration in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda**

- Combat xenophobia
- Facilitate integration through education and communication strategies
- Lower the cost of recruiting migrant workers
- Increase portability of earned benefits and recognition of qualifications
- Promote faster, cheaper and safer transfer of remittances
- Enhance the productive use of remittances
- Mitigate negative consequences of anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing measures

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Migration and development:  
Key opportunities

**Remittances**
- $414 billion to developing countries (officially recorded, >3x ODA)
- Invested in human capital (health, education, etc.)
- Financial inclusion, small business creation

**Diaspora contributions to countries of origin**
- Temporary, long-term or virtual “return” of diaspora
- Transfer of knowledge and skills, trade, FDI
- “Brain gain”

**Contribution to destination countries**
- Contribution to filling labour market shortages
- Reduced dependency ratios
- Entrepreneurship, job creation
Ratification of relevant conventions reflects policy priorities of Member States
New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants
Global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration (1/2)

• Overview

  – Set out principles, commitments and understandings regarding international migration in all its dimensions
  Contribute to global governance by providing a framework for comprehensive international cooperation on migrants and human mobility

  – Grounded in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs, Addis Ababa Action Agenda), and the Declaration of the 2013 High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development
New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants
Global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration (2/2)

• Content (24 indicative elements)
  – Interrelationships with development, opportunities, drivers, contributions, safe, orderly and regular migration, well-managed migration policies, international cooperation, impacts on human capital, remittances, human rights of migrants, migrants in vulnerable situations, border control, human trafficking and migrant smuggling, irregular migration, migrants in countries in crisis, inclusion and access to basic services, regularization, labour rights and working conditions, migrant responsibilities, return and readmission, diasporas, racism and xenophobia, data disaggregation, portability