

# GLOBAL MIGRATION INDICATORS

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Insights from the **Global Migration Data Portal:**  
[www.migrationdataportal.org](http://www.migrationdataportal.org)

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**CONTENT**

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## — ACRONYMS

<b>AVRR</b>	Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>GCM</b>	Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
<b>IDMC</b>	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
<b>IDP</b>	Internally Displaced Persons
<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organization
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration
<b>MGI</b>	IOM's Migration Governance Indicators
<b>OECD</b>	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>UN DESA</b>	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

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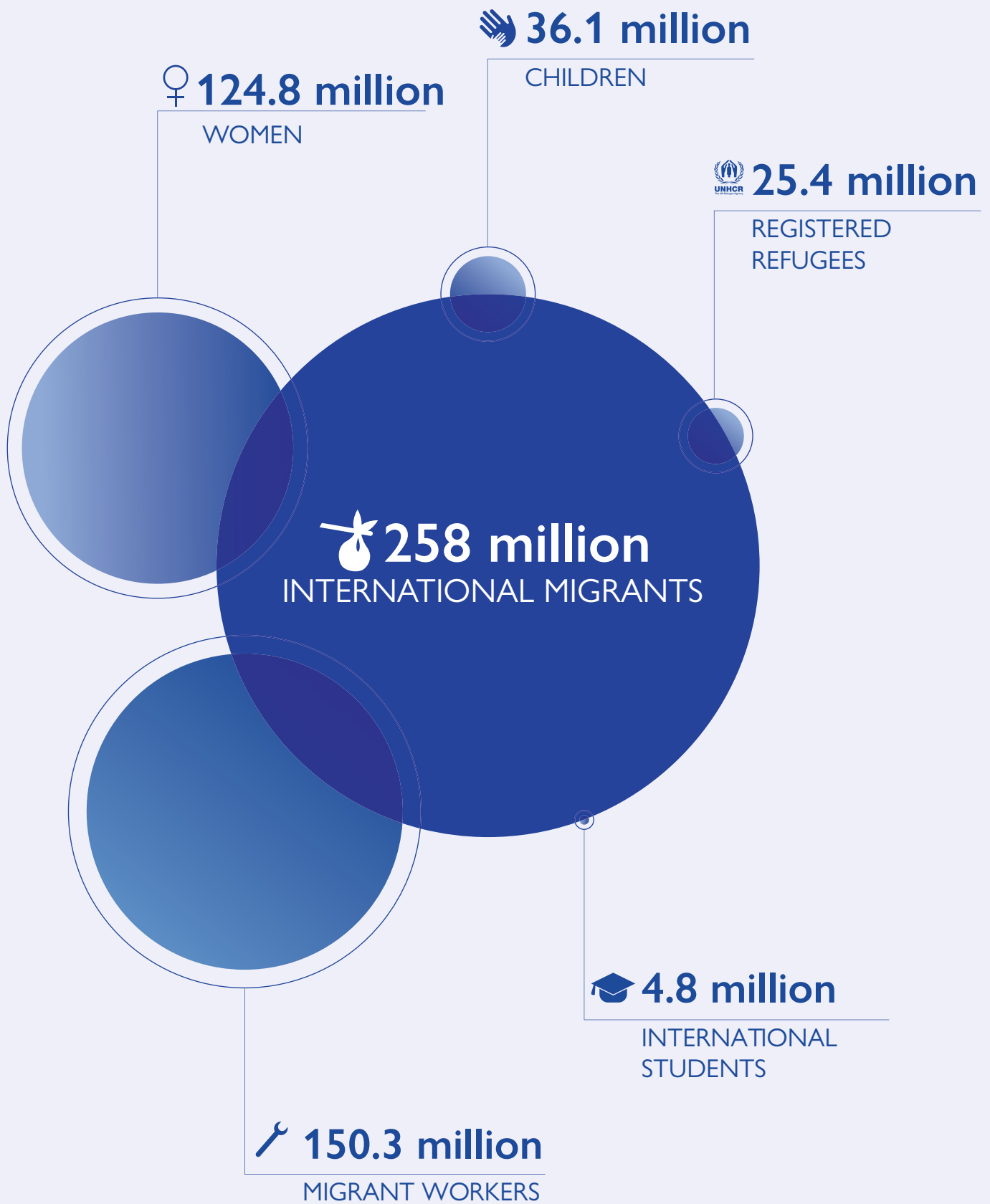
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# 0 OVERVIEW



# OVERVIEW: INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT POPULATION



Source: UN DESA 2018, UNHCR 2018, ILO 2013, UNESCO 2017

# 1 BACKGROUND

In September 2015, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. For the first time, international migration was recognized as an integral part of global sustainable development. Eleven out of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) contain targets and/or indicators that are directly relevant to migration. For example, target 10.7 calls upon countries to “facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies”, and others refer to migration-related topics such as remittances and human trafficking. Beyond this, many more targets are indirectly relevant to migration and in these, migration is a cross-cutting theme. Finally, the Agenda’s core principle to “leave no one behind” is a clear call to include all migrants in the implementation of the SDGs. Overall, migration data needs have increased as a result of the SDGs, as countries need to provide comparable data across migration topics to monitor progress on targets, as well as improve disaggregation of all data by migratory status.

In 19 September 2016, Heads of State and Government from the 193 UN Member States came together at the UN General Assembly to discuss topics related to migration and refugees at the global level. This resulted in the adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, which recognized the need for a comprehensive approach to migration. By adopting the Declaration, UN Member States agreed to cooperate on the elaboration of a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and a Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). The GCM is expected to be adopted at an intergovernmental conference on international migration on 10-11 December 2018 in Morocco. [The final draft of the Compact sets out 23 objectives for safe, orderly and regular migration](#) – the first of which commits UN Member States to “collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a

basis for evidence-based policies”, and to develop a global programme on migration data capacity-building. The third objective describes the need to “Provide adequate and timely information at all stages of migration”, and overall the need to improve data is recognized across all objectives. Although the details of the follow-up mechanism for the GCM have yet to be clearly defined, it is evident that improved migration data will be essential for successful implementation across all thematic areas covered by the GCM, and that migration data capacity-building will be in sharper focus in the years to come.

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

This report is based on data taken from IOM’s Global Migration Data Portal which was launched in December 2017. The Portal aims to serve as a unique access point to timely, comprehensive migration statistics and reliable information about migration data globally. The site is designed to help policymakers, national statistics officers, journalists and the general public interested in the field of migration to navigate the increasingly complex landscape of international migration data, currently scattered across different organizations and agencies. The data presented in this report was compiled by the International Organization for Migration’s Global Migration Data Analysis Centre and is scheduled to be regularly updated.

## **2 — INTERNATIONAL DATA SOURCES: AVAILABILITY AND LIMITATIONS**

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

National [sources of migration data](#) can be broadly grouped into three categories – statistical, administrative and innovative – see Figure 1 for an overview of these. Each of these has distinct advantages and disadvantages. Regarding **statistical data sources**, for example, censuses are universal

and often comparable across countries. On the other hand, they are costly and as many countries conduct censuses only every 10 years and often at different points in time, data can easily be outdated and hard to compare globally. Also, they do not always capture certain populations of interest such as asylum seekers, refugees and irregular migrants. Surveys can be more targeted to migrants and can also yield valuable migration information on socio-economic characteristics of migrants and can be relatively timely. However, their sample size and coverage can be limited. Administrative data source generally are not set up specifically to collect data on migrants, but can often yield some relevant information nonetheless. These

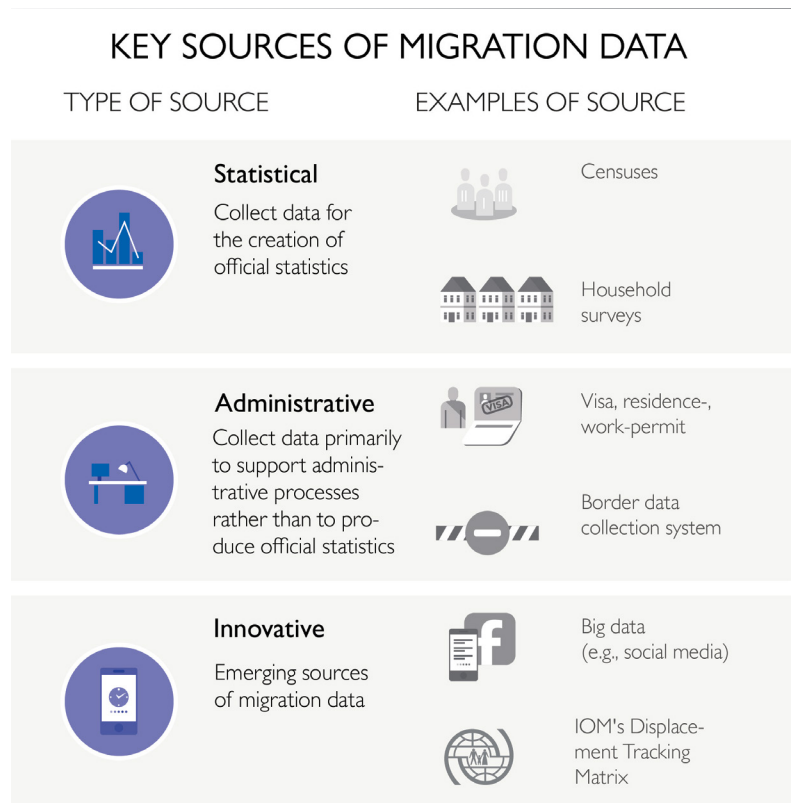


Figure 1.

## 2. INTERNATIONAL DATA SOURCES: AVAILABILITY AND LIMITATIONS

sources include border data collection mechanisms, visas, residence and/or work permits. However, comparability across countries of these data can be limited, as they often use different terminology and are often not consolidated at the national level. Finally, an increasing amount of migration-related information is generated through innovative sources such as “big data”. Big data are collected in real time, can generate information on hard-to-reach migrant populations and can provide valuable insights, for example into forced displacement. However, before big data can be used regularly by policymakers, further efforts are needed to develop methodologies and address data protection concerns.

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

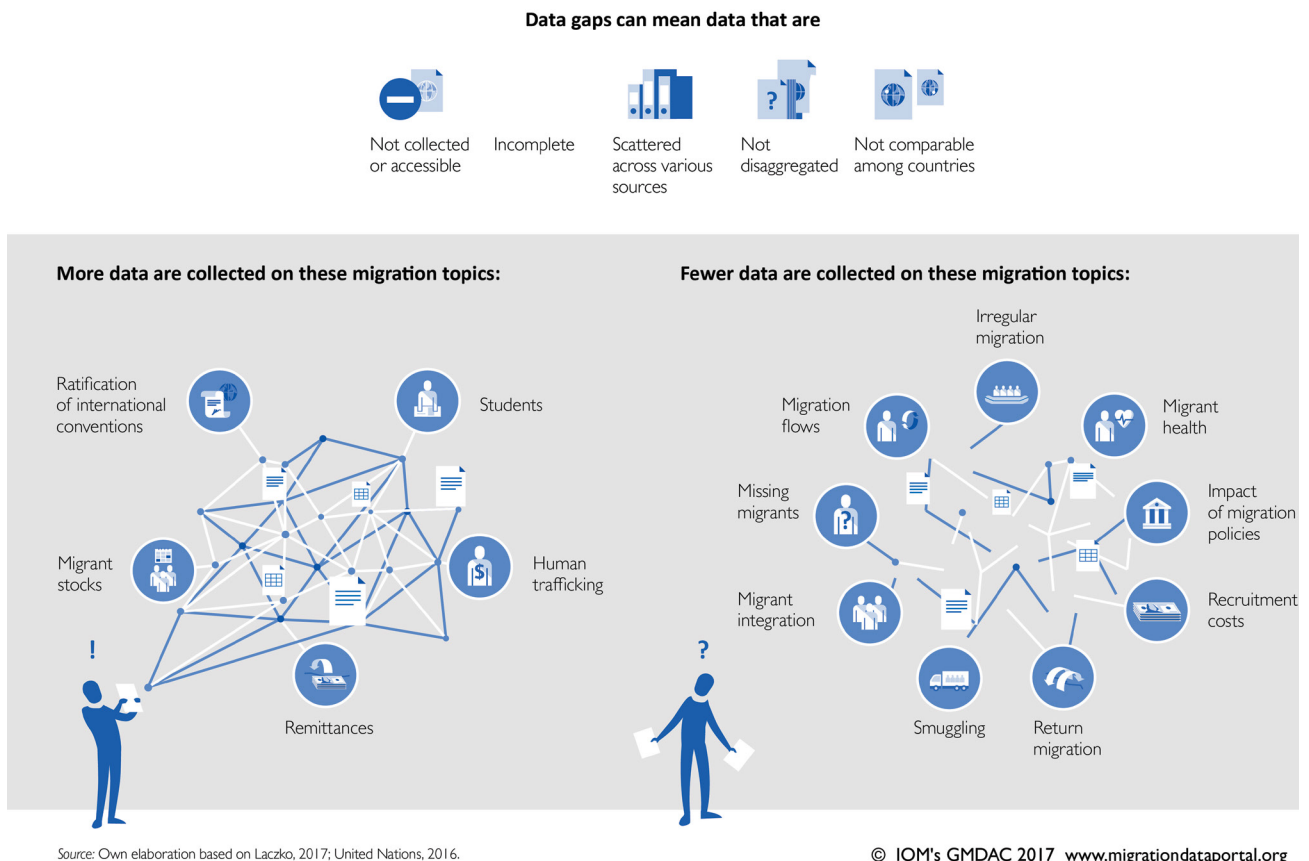


Figure 2.

## A GROWING NUMBER OF ENTITIES AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL PROVIDE MIGRATION-RELEVANT DATA

<b>Gallup</b>	Public opinion on migration and migration intentions ( <a href="#">click here</a> )
<b>IDMC</b>	Internal displacement due to conflicts and disasters ( <a href="#">click here</a> )
<b>ILO</b>	Data on migrant workers and recruitment costs ( <a href="#">click here</a> )
<b>IOM</b>	Data on migration governance and missing migrants. <u>Operational data on various topics including voluntary return, resettlement, human trafficking, internal migrant flows and displacement, and more (<a href="#">click here</a>)</u>
<b>OECD</b>	Data on international migration stocks and flows disaggregated by sex and age ( <a href="#">click here</a> )
<b>Pew Research Centre</b>	Public opinion on migration ( <a href="#">click here</a> )
<b>UN DESA</b>	Data on international migration stocks and flows disaggregated by sex and age ( <a href="#">click here</a> )
<b>UNESCO</b>	Student mobility ( <a href="#">click here</a> )
<b>UNHCR</b>	Data on asylum applications, refugees, resettlement and more on other vulnerable populations ( <a href="#">click here</a> )
<b>UNICEF</b>	Data estimates of child migration ( <a href="#">click here</a> )
<b>UNODC</b>	Data on human trafficking and migrant smuggling ( <a href="#">click data</a> )
<b>World Bank</b>	Data on remittances, diaspora, migration flows by category, labour market outcomes of immigrants and more ( <a href="#">click here</a> )



IOM's **[Global Migration Data Portal](#)** compiles various migration data across topics at the national, regional and global level and serves as a unique access point to statistics from diverse sources. The Portal is a one-stop-shop for migration data and coordinates with relevant data providers across agencies. It is mentioned in the final draft of the GCM.

# 3 — KEY TRENDS 2018





### 1. MIGRANT POPULATION (STOCKS)



**258 million**

**INTERNATIONAL  
MIGRANTS**

were counted globally in 2017 – people residing in a country other than their country of birth. This represented 3.4% of the world's total population.

### 2. MIGRANT FLOWS



**5 million**

**FOREIGN-BORN PERSONS**

entered OECD countries in 2016.

### 3. LABOUR MIGRANTS



**150.3 million**

**MIGRANT WORKERS**

were counted globally in 2015.

### 4. INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS



**4.8 million**

**INTERNATIONAL  
STUDENTS**

were counted in 2016, up from 2 million in 2000.

### 5. REMITTANCES



**\$466 billion**

**OF REMITTANCES**

were sent to low- and middle-income countries in 2017. This is more than three times the size of official development assistance.

### 6. DISPLACEMENT



**68.5 million**

**INDIVIDUALS**

were forcibly displaced worldwide due to persecution, conflict, generalized violence, human rights violations, or other reasons by the end of 2017.

### 7. IRREGULAR MIGRANTS



**50 million**

**IRREGULAR MIGRANTS**

were estimated to be living around the world in 2009.

### 8. REFUGEES



**25.4 million**

**REGISTERED REFUGEES**

were counted in 2017.

### 9. RESETTLEMENT



**102,800**

**REFUGEES**

were admitted for resettlement worldwide in 2017.

### 10. MISSING MIGRANTS



**6,163**

**MIGRANTS**

lost their lives or went missing during migration in 2017, at a minimum.

## 11. TRAFFICKING & MODERN SLAVERY



**25 million**

### VICTIMS OF FORCED LABOUR

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

## 16. ENVIRONMENT



**18.8 million**

### PEOPLE

in 135 countries were newly displaced by sudden-onset disasters within their own countries in 2017.

## 12. MIGRANT SMUGGLING



**2.5 million**

### IRREGULAR MIGRANTS

were smuggled for an economic return of USD 5.5-7 billion in 2016.

## 17. GOVERNANCE



**39**

### COUNTRIES

have taken part in IOM's Migration Governance Indicators project as of 2018.

## 13. RETURNS



**72,176**

### VOLUNTARY RETURNS

were assisted by IOM in 2017 worldwide.

## 18. POTENTIAL MIGRATION



**66 million**

### ADULTS

or 1.3% of the world's adult population, had plans to move permanently to another country in the next 12 months in 2015.

## 14. INTEGRATION AND WELL-BEING



**\$ 6.7 trillion**

### CONTRIBUTION

Migrants contributed 6.7 trillion US dollars to global GDP in 2015 – a share of 9.4% of the total global GDP that year.

## 19. PUBLIC OPINION



**22%**

### OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION

is generally more likely to want national immigration to be kept at its present level (22%) or increased (21%), rather than decreased (34%) in 2015.

## 15. CHILDREN



**14 %**

### CHILDREN

In 2017, children represented 14 per cent of the stock of international migrants.

## 20. MIGRATION DATA CAPACITY



**87% +**

### COUNTRIES

asked about country of birth, 75% asked for citizenship and 50% for the year or period of arrival, in their 2010 censuses.

## 15.a WOMEN



**48.8 %**

### WOMEN

In 2017, women represented 48.8 per cent of the stock of international migrants.

*\*These figures are based on 2017 data where available. Where this was not possible, the latest available data was taken.*

### 3.1 MIGRANT POPULATION – STOCKS AND FLOWS

In 2017, the [stock of international migrants](#) – the total number of people residing in a country other than their country of birth – was estimated at 258 million compared to about 173 million in 2000, and 102 million in 1980. However, the proportion of international migrants in the world population is only slightly higher than that recorded over the past decades, equaling 3.4 per cent in 2017, compared to 2.8 per cent in 2000, and 2.3 per cent in 1980 (UN DESA, 2018).

Data on [migration flows](#) – migrants entering and exiting a certain country per year – are generally available only for a few countries. In 2017, the total number of permanent entries in OECD countries was just over 5 million (OECD, 2018), an increase of almost 25 per cent from 4 million in 2011 (OECD, 2017). Flows in 2017 were down 5 per cent from 2016, representing the first drop since 2011, when humanitarian migration numbers started to see an increase. However, the downward trend in 2017 is mainly because of the reduction in the number of recognized refugees, particularly in Germany (OECD, 2018).

Based on changes in migrant stock data over time, researchers estimate globally that 35-40 million people migrate every 5 years.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Abel & Sander (2014). Quantifying Global International Migration Flows. *Science*, 343 (6178).

Data on stocks and flows of international migrants are necessary to understand migration trends of any kind, and are the cornerstone of any analysis of more specific data on the migration-relevant SDGs (see Table 5.1.) targets and GCM objectives (see Table 5.2).

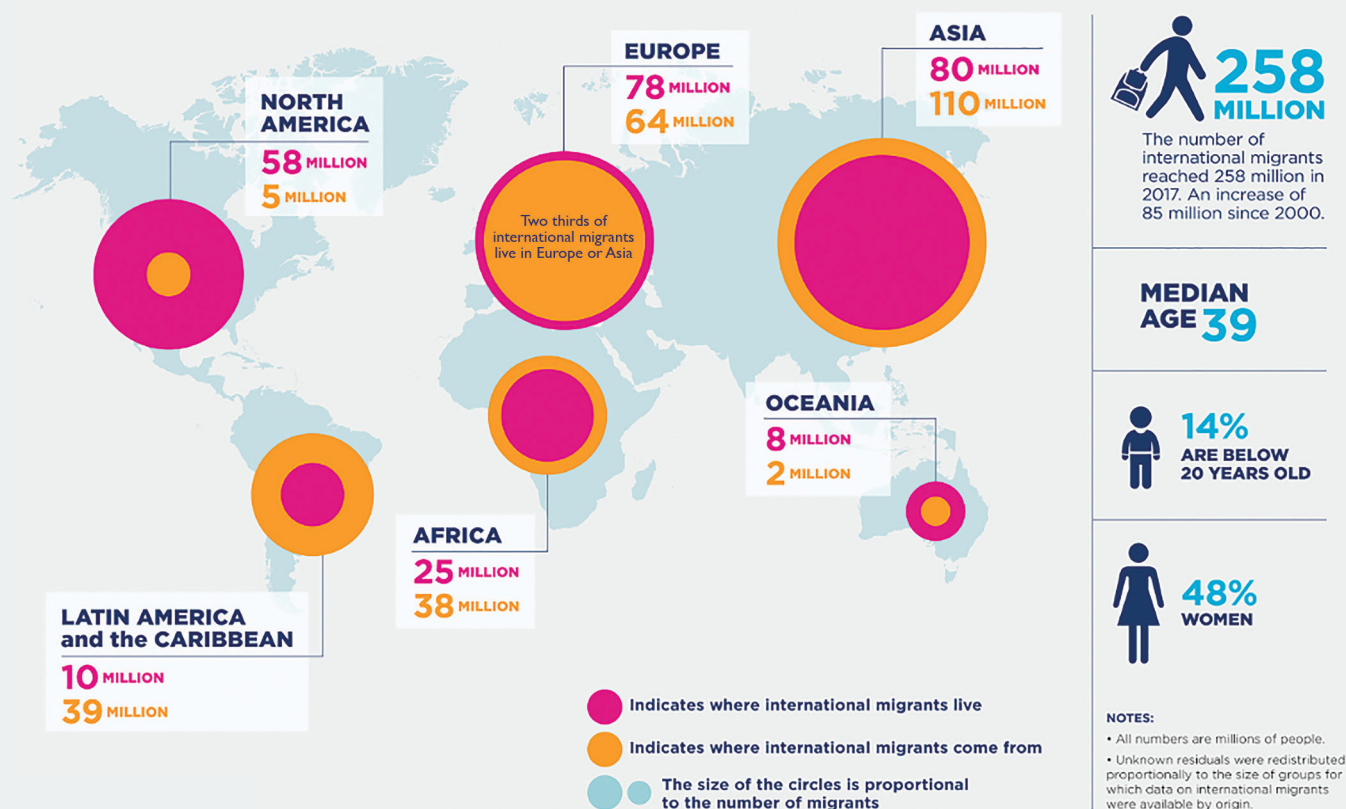
#### RELEVANT SDGs

[Target 10.7](#). Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

#### RELEVANT GCM OBJECTIVES:

Objective 1 and 3  
(see Table 5.2 in the Annex)

## NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS IN 2017



Source: UN DESA, 2017

### FIND OUT MORE

1. UN DESA, 2017 ([click here](#))
2. OECD, 2017 ([click here](#))
3. Global Migration Data Portal ([click here](#))

## 3.2 LABOUR MIGRATION

The latest available estimates for the number of [labour migrants](#) are based on data from 2013. According to the ILO, there were an estimated 150.3 million migrant workers globally in 2013, meaning about two-thirds of all international migrants globally that year were migrant workers. 11.5 million of these were migrant domestic workers (ILO, 2015). Among all migrant workers, 66.6 million are female, or approximately 44.3 per cent of migrant workers worldwide. Males make up 83.7 million or 55.7 per cent of the total (ILO, 2015). Males thus outnumber female migrant workers globally, but with significant regional variations. One in eight migrant workers is between 15 and 24 years-old (GMG, 2017). Almost half (48.5%) of all migrant workers are located in two broad subregions: North America and Northern, Southern and Western Europe. Almost 12 per cent of all migrant workers are in Arab States.

### GLOBAL RELEVANCE

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

#### RELEVANT SDGs

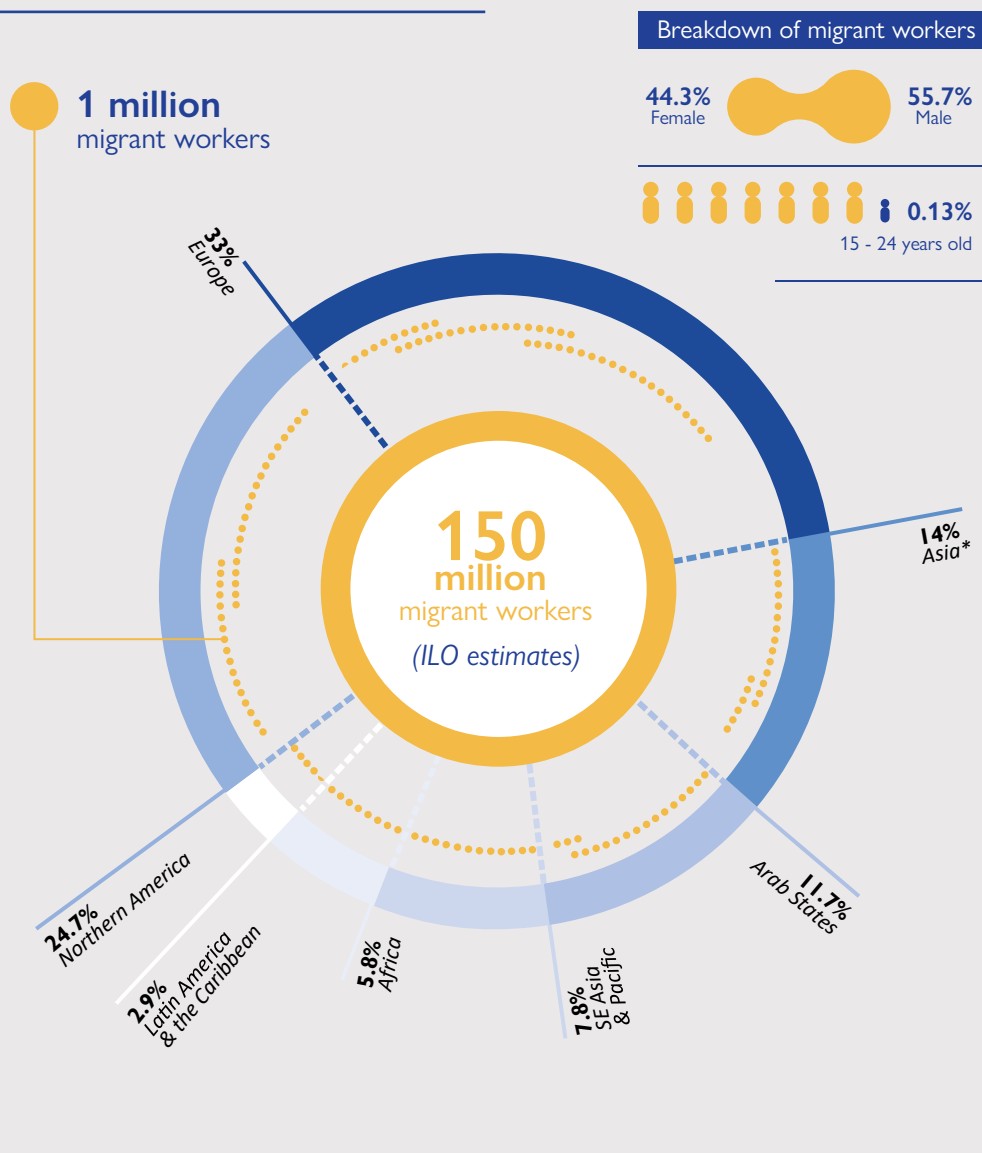
[Target 8.8](#): Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.

See also Target 8.7.

#### RELEVANT GCM OBJECTIVES:

Objective 5, 6 and 18  
(see Table 5.2 in the Annex)

## DISTRIBUTION OF MIGRANT WORKERS IN 2013, BY REGION



\*Asia includes: Central & Western Asia, Eastern Asia and Southern Asia

Source: ILO, 2015.

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### FIND OUT MORE

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

### 3.3 STUDENT MOBILITY

There is no global estimate of the number of [international students](#) in 2017. In 2016, there were over 4.8 million international students, up from 2 million in 2000. Students are defined as those who have crossed a national or territorial border for the purpose of education and are now enrolled outside their country of origin' (UNESCO, 2016). More than half of these were enrolled in educational programmes in six countries: The United States of America, the United Kingdom, Australia, France, Germany and the Russian Federation. Prominent sending countries of international students include China, India, Germany, South Korea, Nigeria, France, Saudi Arabia and several Central Asian countries (UNESCO, 2018).

#### GLOBAL RELEVANCE

Available data can be used to monitor SDG commitments on student mobility, by measuring money spent on global scholarships. The volume of official development assistance flows for scholarships in 2016 stood at USD 1229 million (see Table 5.1).

#### RELEVANT SDGs

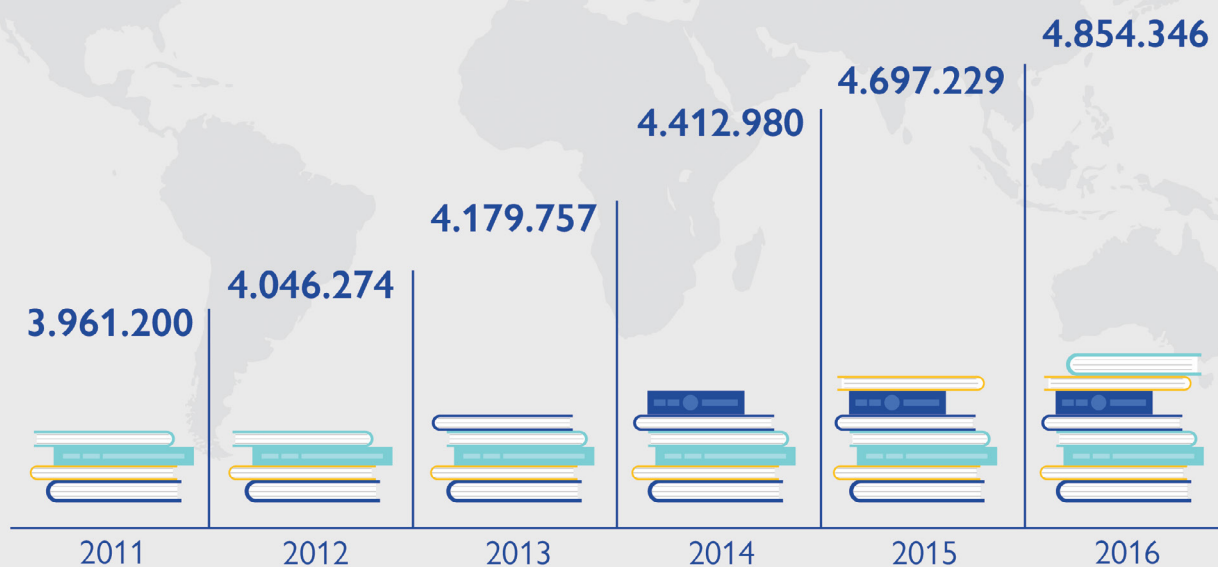
Target 4b: By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications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

#### RELEVANT GCM OBJECTIVES:

Objective 5 and 18  
(see Table 5.2 in the Annex)



## INTERNATIONALLY MOBILE STUDENTS, GLOBAL, 2011 – 2017



© IOM's GMDAC 2018

Source: IOM's GMDAC based on UNESCO, 2018.

### FIND OUT MORE

1. UNESCO, 2018 ([click here](#))
2. Global Migration Data Portal ([click here](#))

## 3.4 REMITTANCES

After two consecutive years of decline, estimates of officially recorded [remittance flows](#) to low and middle income countries ([LMICs](#)) increased in 2017 by 8.5 per cent compared to 2016, rising to USD 466 billion. This is a new record as reported by the World Bank, and remittances are now more than three times the size of official development assistance. Excluding China, remittance flows are also significantly larger than foreign direct investment (FDI) in LMICs.<sup>1</sup> Globally, remittance flows reached USD 613 billion in the same year. In 2017, the top remittance receiving countries were India, China, the Philippines, Mexico and Nigeria. Remittances as a share of GDP varied in 2017; smaller countries saw higher rates such as the Kyrgyz Republic (35.2%), Tonga (33.4%) and Tajikistan (30.7%).<sup>2</sup> According to the World Bank's Remittance Prices Worldwide Database, the cost of sending money to LMICs remained flat at 7.1 per cent in the first quarter of 2018. This is well above the SDG target of 3 per cent by 2030.

<sup>1</sup> World Bank Group, Migration and Remittances. Available from [www.knomad.org/publication/migration-and-development-brief-29](http://www.knomad.org/publication/migration-and-development-brief-29)

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

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

### RELEVANT SDGS

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

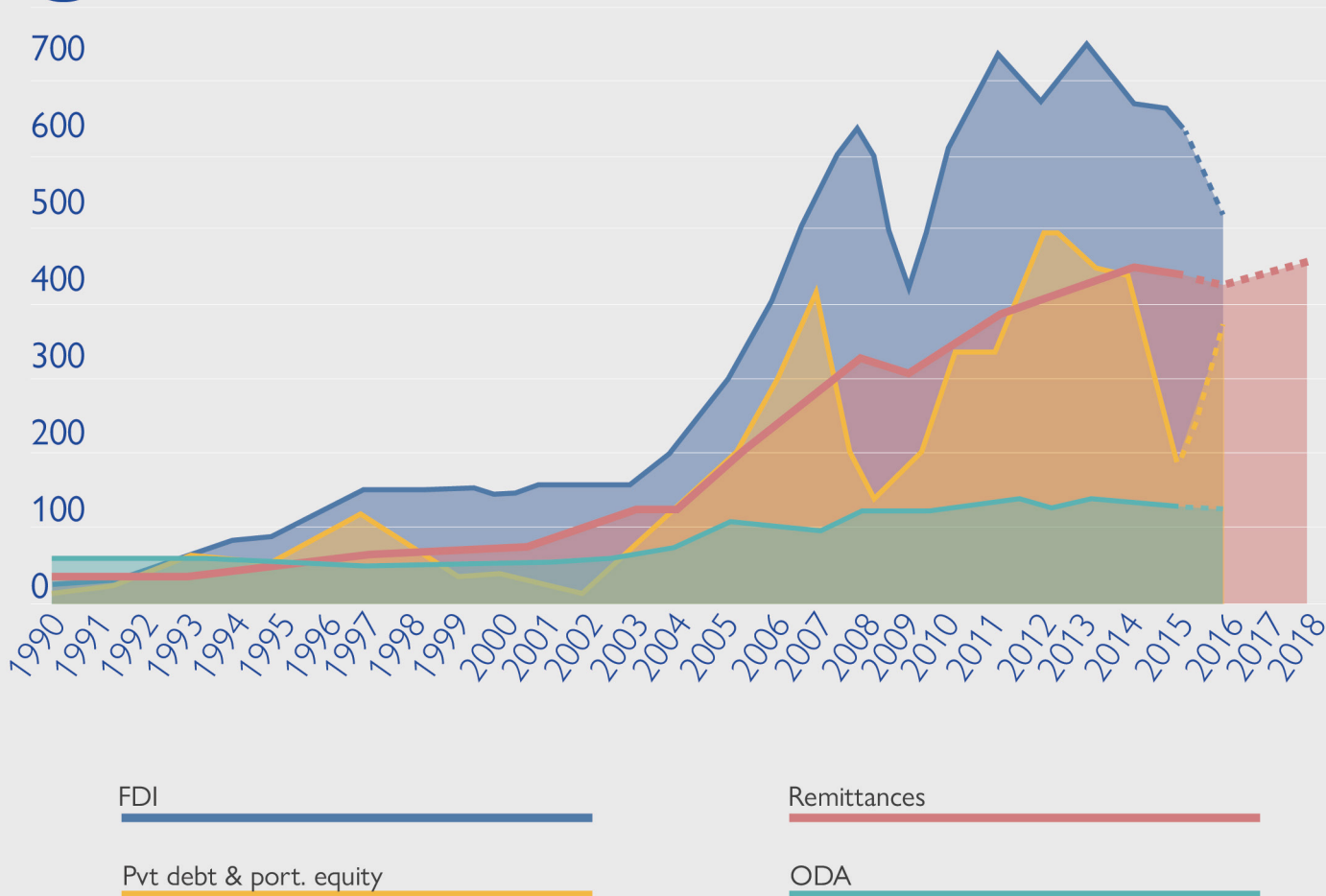
### RELEVANT GCM OBJECTIVES:

Objective 19 and 20  
(see Table 5.2 in the Annex)

## GROWTH OF REMITTANCES (1990 – 2018)



USD 800 billion



© IOM's GMDAC 2018

Source: World Bank 2018. Available from [www.worldbank.org/en/news/infographic/2017/04/21/trends-in-migration-and-remittances-2017](http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/infographic/2017/04/21/trends-in-migration-and-remittances-2017)

### FIND OUT MORE

1. World Bank, 2018 ([click here](#))
2. KNOMAD ([click here](#))
3. Global Migration Data Portal ([click here](#))

### 3.5 FORCED MIGRATION, DISPLACEMENT AND RESETTLEMENT

By the end of 2017, 68.5 million individuals were [forcibly displaced](#) worldwide due to persecution, conflict, generalized violence, or human rights violations. This is almost double the number of forcibly displaced people recorded in 1997. The increase was particularly marked between 2012 and 2015, mostly due to the Syrian conflict. The total figure includes 25.4 million refugees (19.9 million under UNCHR's mandate, and 5.4 million Palestinian refugees assisted by UNRWA), 40 million internally displaced people (IDPs) and 3.1 million asylum-seekers. The figure does not include an additional 18.8 million newly displaced by disasters across 135 countries during 2017 alone, and the unknown number of people who in 2017 remained displaced from their homes due to natural disasters that occurred in previous years.<sup>3,4</sup>

Based on government statistics provided to UNHCR, 102,800 refugees were resettled to third countries during 2017, a 46 per cent reduction from 2016.<sup>5</sup> 204,937 refugees and other individuals in vulnerable situations were resettled to 39 countries under IOM auspices in 2016, a 62 per cent increase relative to 2015. Note that the figure for IOM-assisted resettlement is not directly comparable with UNHCR numbers, as this includes persons participating in (national) humanitarian admission schemes, whilst UNHCR data largely excludes such groups.

3 UNHCR Global Trends, Forced Displacement in 2017. Available from [www.unhcr.org/globaltrends2017/](http://www.unhcr.org/globaltrends2017/)

4 GRID 2018, Global Report on Internal Displacement. Available from [www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2018/downloads/2018-GRID.pdf](http://www.internal-displacement.org/global-report/grid2018/downloads/2018-GRID.pdf)

5 UNHCR Global Trends, Forced Displacement in 2017. Available from [www.unhcr.org/5b27be547.pdf](http://www.unhcr.org/5b27be547.pdf)

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

#### RELEVANT SDGS

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

See also Target 10.7, 11.5, 11b, 13.1.

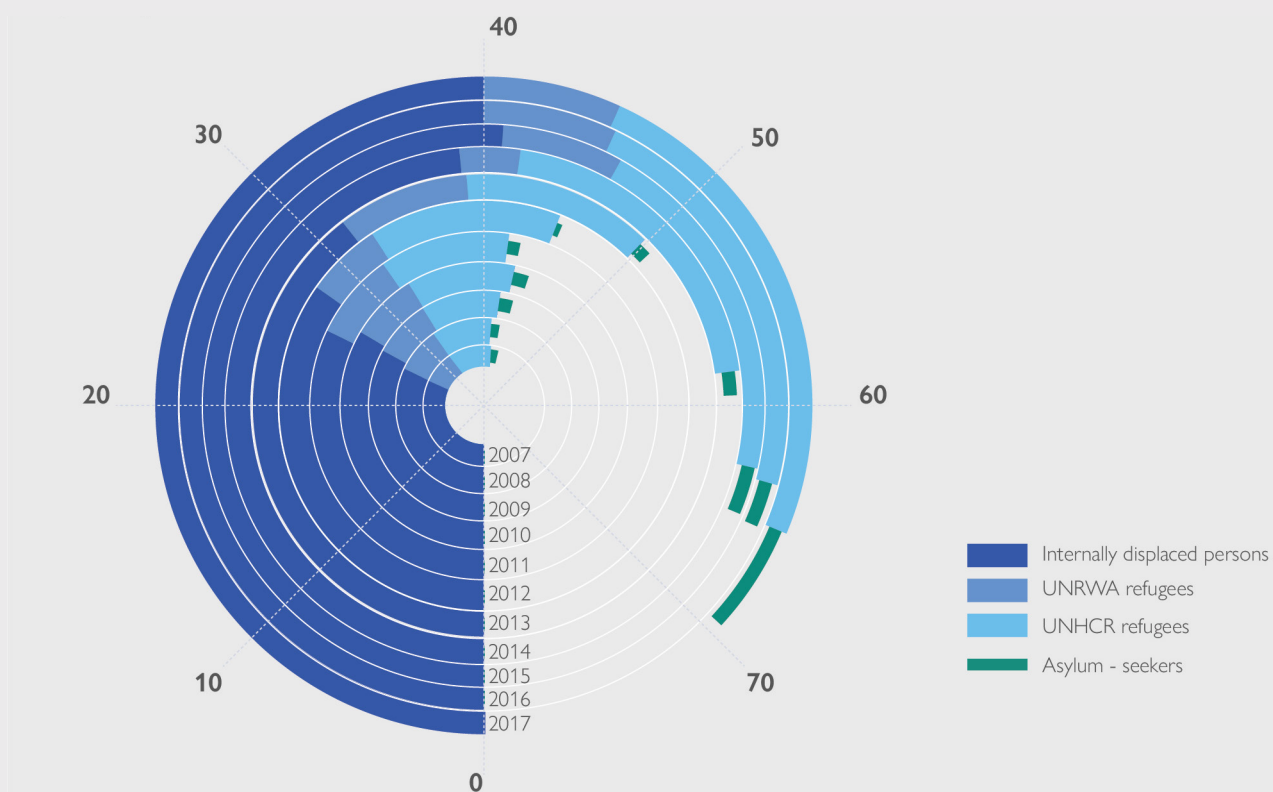
#### RELEVANT GCM OBJECTIVES:

Objective 2 and 7  
(see Table 5.2 in the Annex)

See also [Compact on Refugees](#)

## TREND OF GLOBAL DISPLACEMENT (2007 – 2017)

(millions)



© IOM's GMDAC 2018

Source: UNHCR 2018 Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2017

### FIND OUT MORE

1. UNHCR, 2018 ([click here](#))
2. IOM DTM, 2017 ([click here](#))
3. Global Migration Data Portal ([click here](#))

### 3.6 IRREGULAR MIGRANTS

UNDP reported 50 million [irregular migrants](#) in 2009. Relative to the overall increase in international migration since then, the number of irregular migrants is likely to have increased to 58 million in 2017.<sup>6</sup> This figure should be treated with caution, given the difficulties in estimating numbers of irregular migrants in a country, let alone around the world. Estimates of the irregular migrant population exist for some countries, although they are hardly comparable across countries, as they are based on different methodologies and indicators. An estimated 11.3 million undocumented migrants lived in the United States in 2016, according to calculations from the Pew Research Centre based on census data from March 2016.<sup>7</sup> There were 1.9 to 3.8 million irregular migrants in the EU in 2008 - 7 to 13 per cent of the foreign-born population. In 2017, the total number of irregular border-crossings into the EU dropped to its lowest in four years. The annual total of 204,719 marked a 60 per cent decrease compared to the 511,047 apprehensions of 2016.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>6</sup> UNDP (2009), Human Development Report 2009. Available from [http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/reports/269/hdr\\_2009\\_en\\_complete.pdf](http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/reports/269/hdr_2009_en_complete.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> Pew Research Center estimates. Available from [www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/04/27/5-facts-about-illegal-immigration-in-the-u-s/](http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/04/27/5-facts-about-illegal-immigration-in-the-u-s/)

<sup>8</sup> FRONTEX Risk Analysis for 2018. Available from [reliefweb.int/report/world/frontex-annual-risk-analysis-2018](http://reliefweb.int/report/world/frontex-annual-risk-analysis-2018)

MPI (2011) Irregular Migration in Europe. Available from [www.migrationpolicy.org/research/TCM-irregular-migration-europe](http://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/TCM-irregular-migration-europe)

#### GLOBAL RELEVANCE

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

#### RELEVANT SDGS

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

#### RELEVANT GCM OBJECTIVES:

Objective 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11  
(see Table 5.2 in the Annex)

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



Irregular entry



Irregular residence



Irregular employment

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

Crossing the border



**Irregular**

Applying for asylum



**Regular**

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Source: Own elaboration based on Düvell, 2006; Vespe, M., Natale, F. and L. Pappalardo, 2017.

## FIND OUT MORE

1. UNDP, 2009 ([click here](#))
2. IOM, 2016 ([click here](#))
3. Global Migration Data Portal ([click here](#))

### 3.7 MISSING MIGRANTS

In 2017, IOM’s Missing Migrants Project documented the deaths of 6,163 people during migration to international destinations, the fourth consecutive year that more than 5,000 fatalities were recorded. These figures are a conservative estimate of the actual number of deaths during migration worldwide, as official data on migrant deaths are extremely scarce.

IOM estimates that at least 2,125 people have [lost their lives while migrating](#) to an international destination in the first six months of 2018. Almost half of these deaths (1,074) have been recorded in the Central Mediterranean, despite a decrease in attempted crossings. In 2017, migrant fatalities in the Mediterranean comprised the largest proportion of missing migrants, with 3,139 recorded deaths and disappearances. More than 90 per cent of these occurred in the Central Mediterranean route. Evidence of increasing risks undertaken by migrants transiting through the Americas is evident in IOM data for the border region between Mexico and the United States. Despite a 44 per cent decrease in border apprehensions reported by the US Border Patrol between 2016 and 2017, 415 migrant deaths were recorded on this border in 2017, compared to 398 in 2016.

**GLOBAL RELEVANCE**

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

**RELEVANT SDGS**

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

**RELEVANT GCM OBJECTIVES:**

Objective 8  
(see Table 5.2 in the Annex)



## MISSING MIGRANTS PROJECT GLOBAL OVERVIEW

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Source: Infographic available from <https://missingmigrants.iom.int/>

### FIND OUT MORE

1. IOM's Missing Migrants Project database ([click here](#))
  2. IOM's Fatal Journeys report series ([click here](#))
  3. Global Migration Data Portal ([click here](#))
-

### 3.8 TRAFFICKING AND MODERN SLAVERY

Accurate numbers of [human trafficking](#) cases worldwide are unknown and difficult to estimate. According to ILO and the Walkfree Foundation, there were 40 million victims of modern slavery in 2016, including 25 million people in forced labour and 15 million people in forced marriage. In 2012, ILO estimated that 19 per cent of labour exploitation and 74 per cent of sexual exploitation involves cross-border movement. Overall, the majority of victims identified by IOM between 2002 and 2016 entered the trafficking process through labour migration (IOM, 2017). The [Counter-Trafficking Data Collaborative](#) (IOM, Polaris, Liberty) recorded 7,257 cases of human trafficking in 2017 and 24,226 cases in 2016. Half were women and one in five were minors.

#### GLOBAL RELEVANCE

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

#### RELEVANT SDGS

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

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

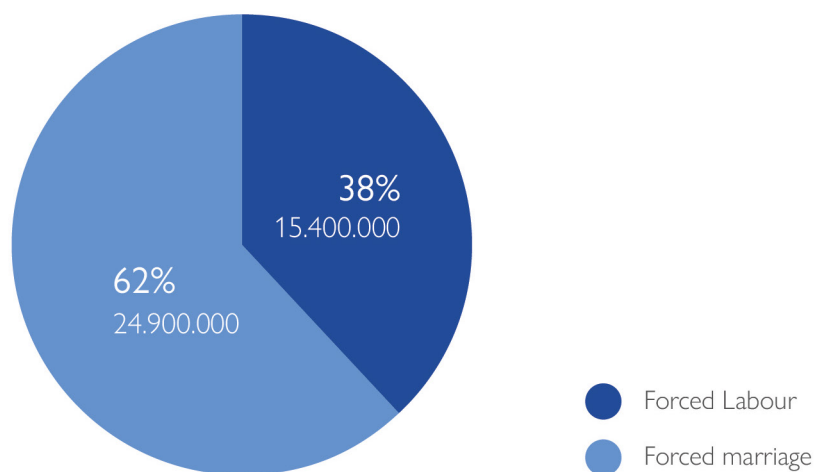
[Target 16.2](#): End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children.

#### RELEVANT GCM OBJECTIVES:

Objective 6, 7, 9, 10 and 11.  
(see Table 5.2 in the Annex)

The data only includes identified cases that were assisted by member organizations, namely IOM, Polaris and Liberty. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) identified 63,251 victims of human trafficking in 106 countries and territories between 2012 and 2014.

## MODERN SLAVERY



© IOM's GMDAC 2018

Source: IOM, 2017.

### FIND OUT MORE

1. ILO/ Walk Free Foundation/ IOM, 2017 ([click here](#))
2. UNODC, 2018 ([click here](#))
3. Counter-Trafficking Data Collaborative (CTDC), 2018 ([click here](#))
4. Global Migration Data Portal ([click here](#))

### 3.9 MIGRANT SMUGGLING

Migrant smuggling is defined as the “procurement, in order to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit, of the illegal entry of a person into a State Party of which the person is not a national or a permanent resident”.<sup>9</sup> Smuggling, contrary to trafficking, does not require an element of exploitation, coercion, or violation of human rights. There is no global figure for the number of smuggled migrants given its clandestine nature.

At a minimum, 2.5 million migrants were smuggled for an economic return of USD5.5-7 billion in 2016 (UNODC 2018). This is equivalent to what the United States of America (some USD7 billion) or the European Union countries (some USD6 billion) spent on humanitarian aid globally in 2016. UNODC (2018) reports that 370,000 migrants were smuggled into the EU by sea in 2016 alone, many of whom may have been victims of human trafficking. Migrants entering countries irregularly sometimes rely on smugglers to enable their travel, though the true number is unknown.

<sup>9</sup> UNODC (2000) - Protocol against the smuggling of migrants by land, sea and air, supplementing the united nations convention against transnational organized crime.

**RELEVANT SDGS**

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

**RELEVANT GCM OBJECTIVES:**

Objective 9  
(see Table 5.2 in the Annex)

## MIGRANT SMUGGLING

---



**2.5 million**

migrants

 = 100,000 people



**7 billion**

US dollars

© IOM's GMDAC 2018

Source: UNODC, 2018.

### FIND OUT MORE

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

### 3.10 MIGRANT RETURNS

There are no harmonized global figures for [return migration](#). In 2017, EU Member States reported 279,215 return decisions issued to third-country nationals, which represented a 9 per cent decrease compared to 2016, according to Frontex. The total number of migrants subject to return decisions is still underestimated by this indicator, as data on decisions were unavailable from Austria, France and the Netherlands. As in previous years, the number of return decisions was much larger than the total number of effective returns to third countries (151,398). The number of effective returns of Eastern European and Central American nationals amounts to 74-84 per cent of the reported return decisions issued. In contrast, the number of effective returns of Central and Eastern African national represents around 15 per cent of the return decisions.<sup>10</sup>

In 2017, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) conducted 226,119 removals, a drop of 6 per cent from the previous year.<sup>11</sup> In Australia, the Department of Immigration and Border Protection assisted in or managed the departure of 14,660 people from Australia during financial year 2016–2017 (1 July 2016–30 June 2017), a slight decrease on 2015–2016 figures (14,708).

<sup>10</sup> FRONTEX, Risk Analysis for 2018. Available from <http://data.europa.eu/euodp/data/dataset/ra-2018>

<sup>11</sup> U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, FY 2017 ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations Report. Available from [www.ice.gov/removal-statistics/2017](http://www.ice.gov/removal-statistics/2017)

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

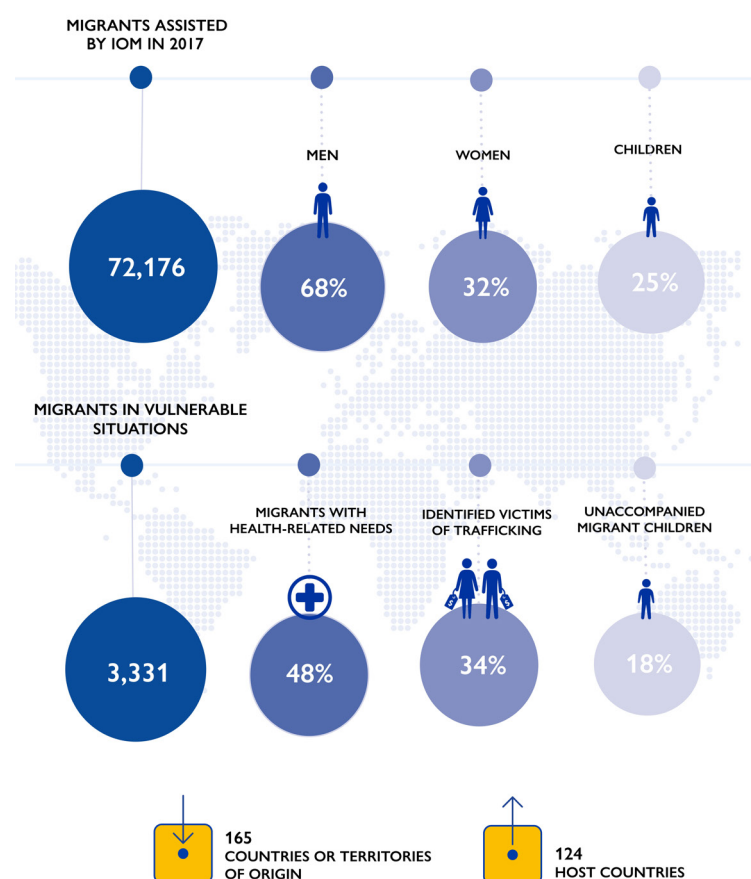
#### RELEVANT SDGS

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

#### RELEVANT GCM OBJECTIVES:

Objective 21  
(see Table 5.2 in the Annex)

In Canada, the number of deportations carried out by the Canada Border and Security Agency (CBSA) declined in the last five years, from 18,992 in 2012 to 7,080 in 2017.<sup>12,13</sup> Within the number of effective EU returns to third countries, 50 per cent were reported to be on a voluntary basis and 50 per cent were forced.<sup>14</sup> The number of IOM-assisted voluntary returns, as reported by Frontex in 2017 is 18,114, significantly lower than the number of assisted voluntary returns from EU countries (plus Norway and Switzerland) recorded by IOM in the same year. This was 72,176, which decreased by around 15 per cent relative to 2016.



<sup>12</sup> CBSA, Arrests, detentions and removals statistics. Available from [www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/menu-eng.html](http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/menu-eng.html)

<sup>13</sup> CBC News. Available from [www.cbc.ca/news/politics/deportation-uncooperative-countries-1.4405383](http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/deportation-uncooperative-countries-1.4405383)

<sup>14</sup> FRONTEX, Risk Analysis for 2018. Available from <http://reliefweb.int/report/world/frontex-annual-risk-analysis-2018>

## FIND OUT MORE

1. Frontex, 2017 ([click here](#))
2. IOM, 2017 ([click here](#))
3. Global Migration Data Portal ([click here](#))

### 3.11 MIGRANT INTEGRATION AND WELL-BEING

[Migrant integration](#) covers multiple domains including the labour market, education, health, well-being and other outcomes for migrants. For most of these areas, data are not available at the global level for 2017, and to date research on the topic has largely been limited to high-income countries or regions. Integration outcomes depend on many factors including the country of origin, the host community context and the skill level of immigrants. Integration tends to improve with the duration of residence in most countries where data are available (OECD, 2015; Huddleston et al., 2013). Data from 2012–13 show that on average two in three migrants in OECD countries were employed – 1 per cent higher than for the native-born. This varied cross regions, however; in the EU, the employment rate of immigrants (62%) was 3 per cent lower than for the native-born (OECD, 2015).

The McKinsey Global Institute estimates that migrants contributed roughly USD6.7 trillion, or 9.4 per cent, to global GDP in 2015—some USD3 trillion more than they would have produced in their origin countries.

#### GLOBAL RELEVANCE

Data on migrant integration and well-being are particularly important in the context of the SDGs insofar as they help us explore how to ‘leave no one behind’. Further, disaggregated data across more themes are needed to better understand how migration affects individuals’ wellbeing, and to help monitor progress towards various specific SDG target and GCM Objectives, including on integration.

#### RELEVANT SDGS

[Target 10.2](#): By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.

See also Target 10.3; 16.3; 16.9.

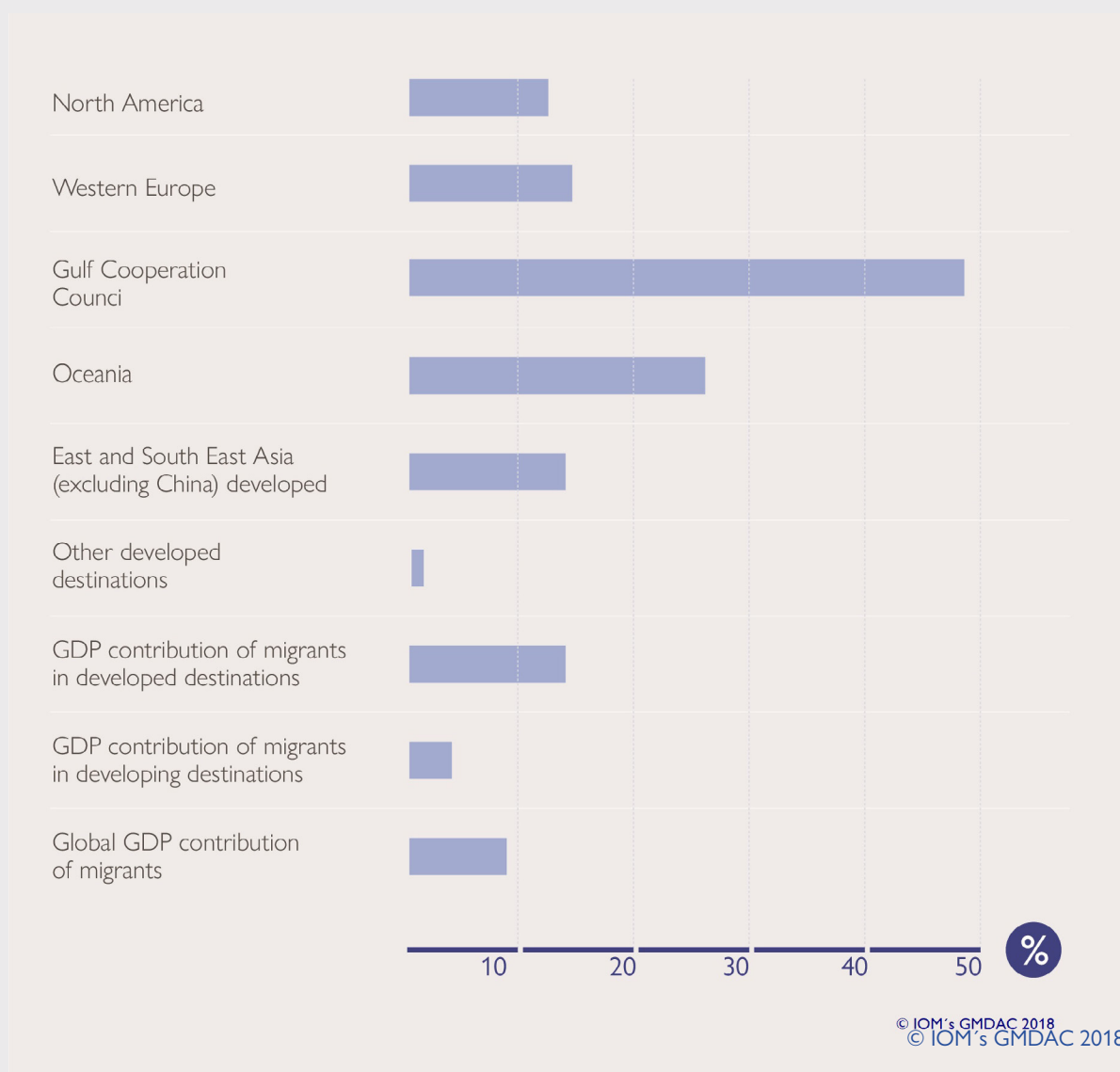
Note that disaggregation of various SDG by migratory status will yield information on this topic.

#### RELEVANT GCM OBJECTIVES:

Objective 15, 16, 17 and 18  
(see Table 5.2 in the Annex)



## MIGRANTS' CONTRIBUTIONS AS SHARE OF GDP, 2015



Source: McKinsey, 2016.

### FIND OUT MORE

1. OECD, 2015 ([click here](#))
2. Jeffers, K., Tjaden, J. and F. Laczko, 2018 ([click here](#))
3. Global Migration Data Portal ([click here](#))

### 3.12 MIGRATION OF CHILDREN AND WOMEN

According to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), the estimated number of people aged 19 or under living in a country other than the one where they were born rose to 36 million in 2017 – an increase of 21 per cent compared to 1990. In recent years, the number of [children migrating](#) unaccompanied has increased. In 2015–2016, there were five times as many children estimated to be migrating alone than in 2010–2011 (UNICEF, 2017b). The number of unaccompanied and separated children applying for asylum outside the EU increased from 4,000 in 2010 to 19,000 in 2015 (UNICEF, 2017). According to Eurostat, the number of unaccompanied children among asylum seekers in Europe increased from 10,610 in 2010 to 95,208 in 2015, and then decreased to 63,280 in 2016. [Women](#) comprise marginally less than half, 125 million or 48.4 per cent, of the global international migrant stock (UN DESA, 2017). The share of female migrants has declined from 49.1 per cent in 2000 to 48.4 per cent in 2017. Nevertheless, the proportion of females migrating varies considerably across regions, and since 2000, the proportion of female migrants actually slightly increased in all regions except for Asia (UN DESA, 2017).

#### GLOBAL RELEVANCE

Given the various migration-related SDG targets relevant specifically to women and children as well as the Agenda's focus on data disaggregation, these data are important to help understand progress against these targets. Further related data, for example on the specific vulnerabilities relating to women and children, are needed to better understand themes around this and Objective 7 of the GCM.

#### RELEVANT SDGS

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

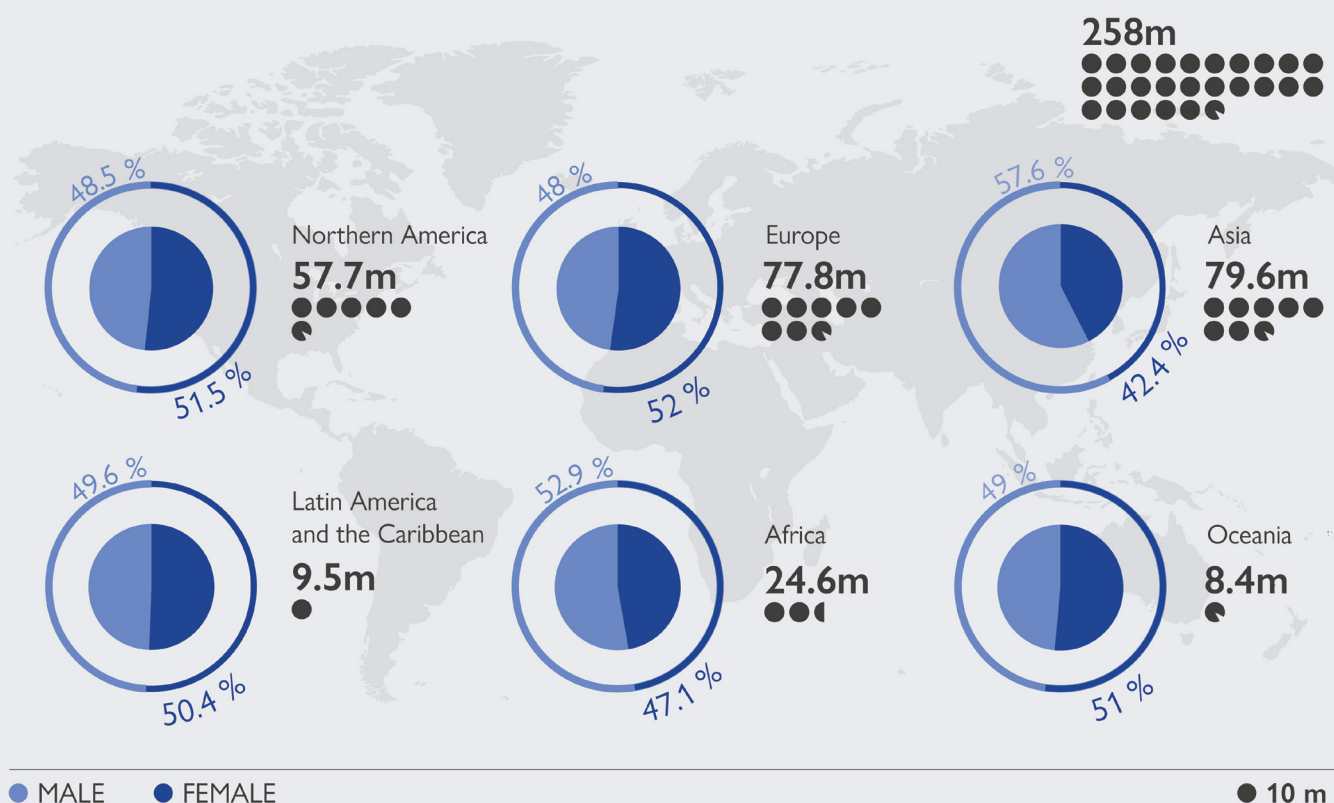
[Target 16.2](#): End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children.

See also [Target 5.4](#) and [8.8](#) on female labour migration.

#### RELEVANT GCM OBJECTIVES:

Objective 1 and 7

## TOTAL INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT STOCK BY REGION AND SEX, 2017



© IOM's GMDAC 2018

Source: UN DESA

### FIND OUT MORE

1. UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM, 2017 ([click here](#))
2. UN DESA, 2017 ([click here](#))
3. Global Migration Data Portal ([click here and here](#))

### 3.13 MIGRATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

In 2017 alone, 18.8 million people in 135 countries were newly displaced in the context of sudden-onset disasters within their own country. This is in addition to millions already living in displacement following previous disasters; between 2008 and 2016 an estimated 227.6 million people were displaced by disasters (IDMC, 2017). South and East Asia, the Caribbean and the Pacific were the most affected regions; in particular, China, the Philippines and Cuba recorded the highest numbers of displacements. Small island developing States (SIDS) continued to be disproportionately affected by natural hazards. While [migration in the context of the environment](#) occurs primarily within countries, some are forced to cross borders. However, to date global data on cross-border movement in the context of disasters are limited.

In 2017, disaster displacement has been caused primarily by extreme weather events, especially flooding (8.6 million) and storms (7.5 million). Particularly devastating were hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria in the Atlantic and the Caribbean, and a series of typhoons in South and East Asia and Pacific (IDMC, 2018). Slow-onset processes such as droughts or sea level rise also increasingly affect people's mobility worldwide but systematic, quality data are not available on this.

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

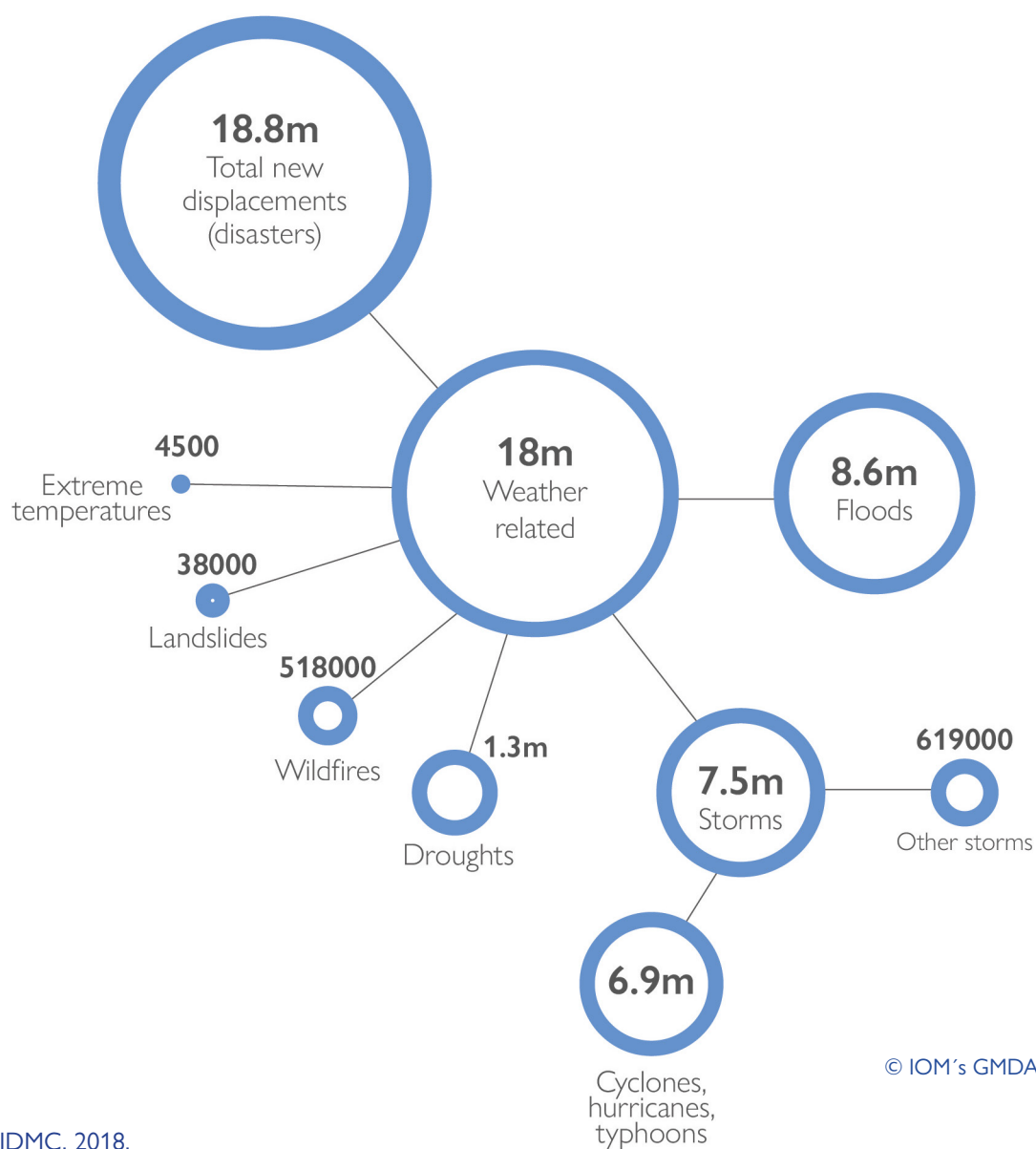
#### RELEVANT SDGS

Target 13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.

#### RELEVANT GCM OBJECTIVES:

Objective 1, 2, 5 and 7

## DISPLACEMENT PER DISASTER



© IOM's GMDAC 2018

Source: IDMC, 2018.

### FIND OUT MORE

1. Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), 2018 ([click here](#))
2. IOM – Atlas of Environmental Migration, 2017 ([click here](#))
3. Global Migration Data Portal ([click here](#))

### 3.14 MIGRATION GOVERNANCE

Global trends in [migration policies](#) cannot be easily defined or tracked, because available indices cover different aspects of migration for different periods and regions, and because migration policies are highly contextual. For countries in the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), data from the International Migration Policy and Law Analysis (IMPALA) database reveal a trend “toward more complex and, often, more restrictive regulation since the 1990’s.” IMPALA data also show “differential treatment of groups, such as lower requirements for highly skilled than low-skilled labour migrants” (Beine et al., 2015). Others find that while policies toward irregular migrants and, more recently, family members have often become more restrictive, other policies targeting high and low-skilled workers, students, and migrants from specific origins, have become less restrictive since the Second World War (de Haas et al., 2014).

Another key resource on migration governance are IOM’s [Migration Governance Indicators](#), a framework which assesses the comprehensiveness of countries’ migration policy across 90 indicators. As of 2018, the project has covered 39 countries and will expand to more in the future.

Migration Governance Snapshots for these countries can be found on the [Global Migration Data Portal](#).

#### GLOBAL RELEVANCE

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

#### RELEVANT SDGS

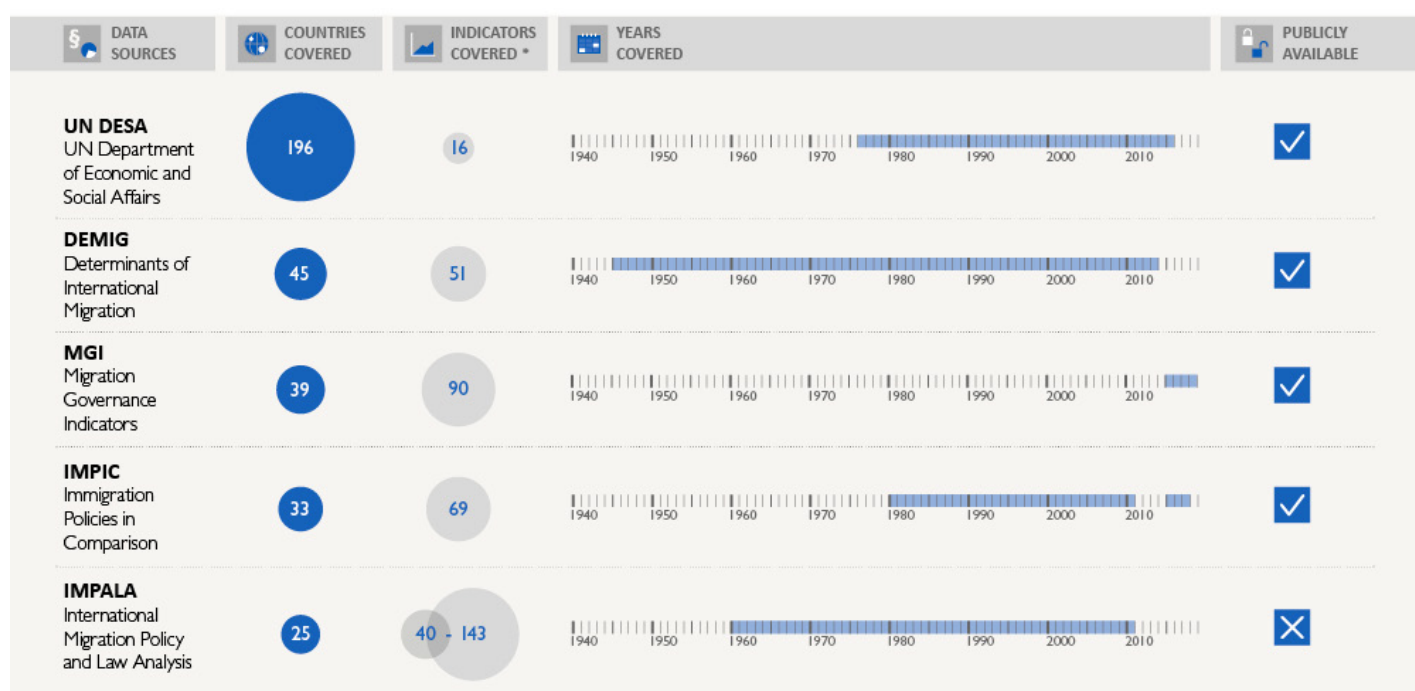
[Target 10.7](#): Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

#### RELEVANT GCM OBJECTIVES:

Objective 1, 3 and 23  
Cross-cutting  
(see Table 5.2 in the Annex)

## MIGRATION POLICY INDICES

Available data on  
how countries  
regulate migration



© IOM's GMDAC 2017 [www.migrationdataportal.org](http://www.migrationdataportal.org)

### FIND OUT MORE

1. IOM, 2016 ([click here](#))
2. Helbling, M, L. Bjerre, F. Römer and M. Zobel, 2017 ([click here](#))
3. Beine, M. et al., 2016 ([click here](#))
4. Global Migration Data Portal ([click here](#))

### 3.15 PUBLIC OPINION ON MIGRATION

Globally, [public opinion](#) is divided on the question of whether to increase, decrease or keep present immigration levels. The largest available dataset on this, from Gallup, shows that on average, most of the world’s population is generally more likely to want immigration in their countries to be kept at its present level (22%) or increased (21%), rather than decreased (34%) (IOM, 2015). There can be significant regional variation in public opinion. People in Europe tend to hold more negative views towards immigration, with the majority (52%) saying immigration levels should be decreased (IOM, 2015). On the contrary, attitudes are more positive in the United States, with the majority (62%) saying immigration levels should be increased.

Survey data from 2016 suggest that attitudes towards immigration may have become more negative, and approximately half of respondents agreed with the statement ‘there are too many immigrants in our country (IPSOS, 2016). A 2016 poll from the Pew Research Center (PEW) revealed that 58 per cent of people in the United States believed that having more people of many different races, ethnic groups and nationalities make the US a better place to live, compared with 22 per cent (median percentage) of Europeans (PEW, 2016). The figures for Sweden (36%), the United Kingdom (33%) and Spain (31%) are higher than the median percentage for the region (ibid). Public opinion data on migration are mostly available for a small number of countries and rarely collected every year. Further, it results vary considerably within regions in different countries, and also within countries in different localities and in urban versus rural areas.

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

**RELEVANT SDGS**

n/a

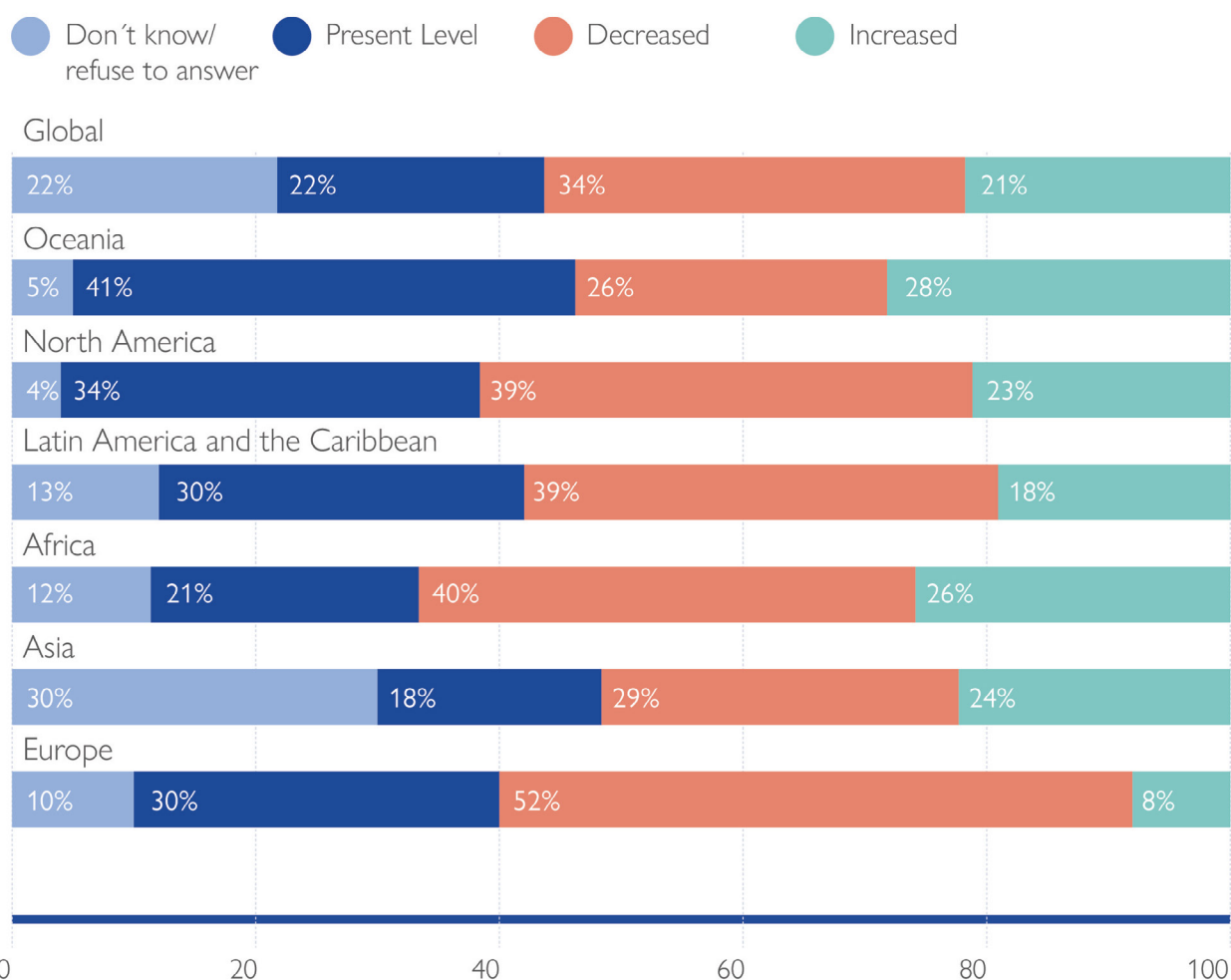
**RELEVANT GCM OBJECTIVES:**

Objective 17  
(see Table 5.2 in the Annex)



## ATTITUDES TOWARDS IMMIGRATION BY REGION (%)

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



© IOM's GMDAC 2018

Source: IOM, 2015.

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

### FIND OUT MORE

1. IOM, 2015 ([click here](#))
2. Overseas Development Institute (ODI), 2018 ([click here](#))
3. Pew Research Centre, 2016 ([click here](#))
4. Global Migration Data Portal ([click here](#))

### 3.16 MIGRATION POTENTIAL

The most recent estimates of [global migration potential](#) are based on survey data up to 2015. While large numbers of people around the world express a general desire to migrate (710 million), far fewer report they are actually planning or preparing to migrate in the next 12 months (see Figure 3). Less than 10 per cent of those who expressed a wish to migrate between 2010 and 2015 said they were making plans to move in the next 12 months (66 million adults or 1.3% of the world's adult population), and only 23 million adults reported taking steps to realize their plans.<sup>15</sup> The number of people who plan to migrate has increased on average by 2 per cent per year between 2010 and 2015. Potential migration has seen faster increases in some regions of the world. The number of adults planning to migrate in West Africa – the region with the highest migration potential in absolute terms – has increased by 7 per cent between 2010 and 2015.

Half of all adults planning to migrate live in just 20 countries, including eight African countries (Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Algeria and Côte d'Ivoire), four Asian countries (India, Bangladesh, China and Pakistan), three Latin American countries (Mexico, Colombia and Brazil), two Middle Eastern countries (Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq), and two European countries (Italy and Spain).

<sup>15</sup> IOM, *Measuring Global Migration Potential 2010-2015*. Available from [publications.iom.int/books/global-migration-data-analysis-centre-data-briefing-series-issue-no-9-july-2017](http://publications.iom.int/books/global-migration-data-analysis-centre-data-briefing-series-issue-no-9-july-2017)

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

#### RELEVANT SDGS

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

#### RELEVANT GCM OBJECTIVES:

Cross cutting and Objective 1

It is important to highlight that migration potential and actual migration flows are not the same. The number of recorded migration flows is approximately 10 times smaller than the number of people with migration plans. The link between potential and actual migration varies substantially by country and region.

### Figure 3.

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



### FIND OUT MORE

1. Laczko, F., Tjaden, J. and D. Auer, 2017 ([click here](#))
2. Tjaden, J. and D. Auer, 2018 ([click here](#))
3. N. Esipova, J. Ray and R. Srinivasan, 2011 ([click here](#))
4. Global Migration Data Portal ([click here](#))

### 3.17 MIGRATION DATA CAPACITY

The extent to which countries follow international guidance on migration statistics is a good measure of their [migration data capacity](#). Not all countries collect data on the same core census questions recommended by United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) on country of birth, citizenship and year or period of arrival; during the 2010 census round, while more than 87 per cent of the 149 countries for which data are available had a census question about country of birth, only 75 per cent asked for citizenship and 50.3 per cent for the year or period of arrival (Juran and Snow, 2017). While there are estimates of migrant stocks available for 232 UN countries/areas, there are significant variations in regional data availability. In 2017, 80 IOM offices in different countries offered technical support to government counterparts to improve migration data.<sup>16</sup>

<sup>16</sup> IOM, Institutional Questionnaire (internal) 2017.

Measuring migration data capacity is difficult, but this may improve through the SDGs and the GCM. Both of these processes recognise the need for capacity-building to enhance migration statistics at the national, regional and global levels; this could see greater efforts behind strengthening and monitoring migration data capacities of countries.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>17</sup> See [Paris 21's report](#) on strengthening data capacities in this context.

#### RELEVANT SDGS

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

#### RELEVANT GCM OBJECTIVES:

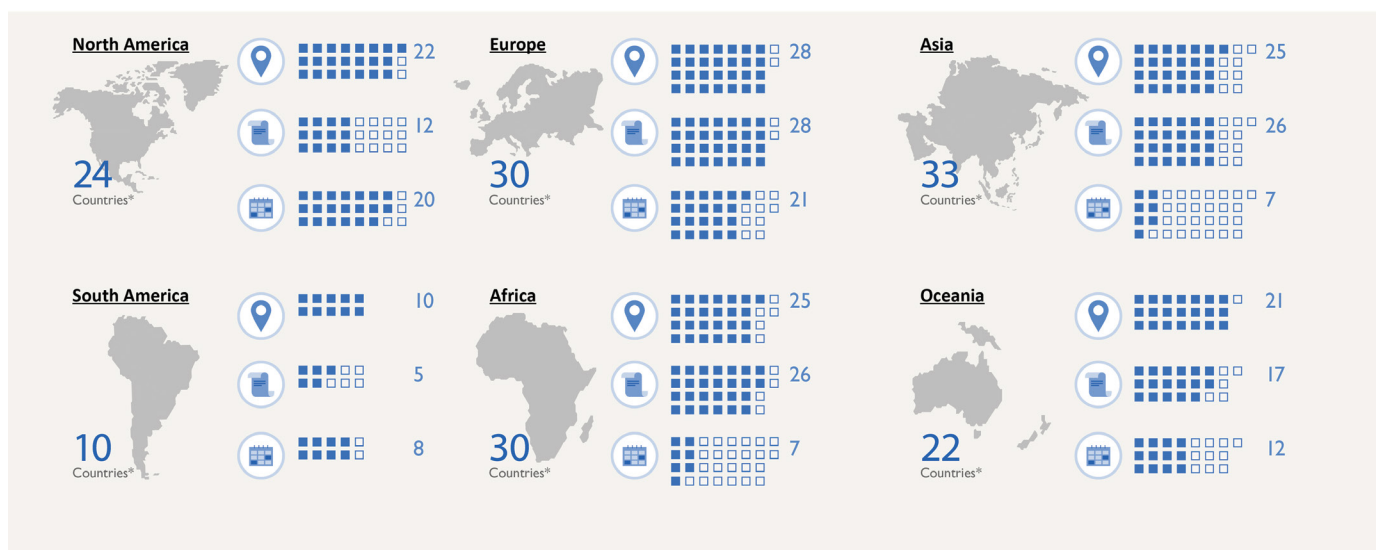
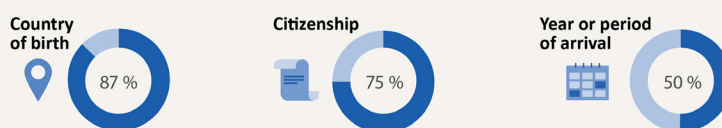
Cross cutting and Objective 1

## CENSUS DATA

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

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

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



\* This represents the number of countries with

Source: Own elaboration based on numbers calculated by IINEPA, 2017

© IOM's GMDAC 2017 [www.migrationdataportal.org](http://www.migrationdataportal.org)

### FIND OUT MORE

1. Global Migration Group 2017. ([click here](#))
2. Juran, S. and R. Snow, 2017 ([click here](#))
3. IOM and McKinsey & Company, 2018 ([click here](#))
4. Global Migration Data Portal ([click here](#))

# 4

## CONCLUSIONS

Two major developments at the international level have the potential to fundamentally change how we measure and assess migration in the future: The 2030 Agenda and the forthcoming GCM. The status of SDG migration indicators helps show the status of migration data capacity at the international level. As of 2018, only three of 11 global indicators to measure migration progress were Tier 1, meaning they were conceptually clear, had an internationally established methodology and standards, and data were regularly produced by at least half of relevant countries or populations. Four relevant indicators were Tier 3, meaning they had no such methodology or standards but these were being developed.

This report provides a snapshot of international data across a range of migration-related topics that are relevant to policymakers, the public and others. These data are a summary of key migration trends based on data taken from IOM's [Global Migration Data Portal](#). Many indicators are of particular importance to the SDGs and the GCM.

The report also makes a first attempt to explicitly link the global migration policy agenda with migration data availability. By doing so, it illustrates how data availability and quality vary considerably across migration topics and how there is a clear need to improve migration data across the

There is an urgent need to make concerted efforts to improve migration data. As the international community continues to take action to meet its commitments under the 2030 Agenda and as it moves forward to adopt the GCM, it is more necessary than ever to monitor global migration trends systematically for years to come.







Visit the one-stop-shop for international migration data at  
[www.migrationdataportal.org](http://www.migrationdataportal.org)



# 4 **ANNEX**

## 5.1 LIST OF MIGRATION-RELATED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL TARGETS

The table below details SDG targets that directly mention migration and migration-related topics. Note that migration is indirectly relevant to many more of the 169 targets, including some of those mentioned above. These are not all listed in the table below but can be found [here](#).

TARGET	INDICATOR	CLASSIFICATION	CUSTODIAN AGENCY	DATA*
<p><b>3.c</b></p> <p>Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States.</p>	<p><b>3.c.1</b></p> <p>Health worker density and distribution</p>	I	WHO	Data available, but not at global level
<p><b>4.b</b></p> <p>By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries.</p>	<p><b>4.b.1</b></p> <p>Volume of official development assistance flows for scholarships by sector and type of study</p>	I	OECD/ UNESCO-UIS	1229 millions of constant 2016 USD ( <a href="#">click here</a> )
<p><b>5.2</b></p> <p>Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.</p>	N/A: not explicitly on migration			

\* as of October 2018

TARGET	INDICATOR	CLASSIFICATION	CUSTODIAN AGENCY	DATA*
<b>8.7</b> Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms:	<b>8.7.1</b> Proportion and number of children aged 5–17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age	II	ILO, UNICEF	Data available, but not at global level
	<b>8.8</b> Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.	<b>8.8.1</b> Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status	II	ILO
	<b>8.8.2</b> Level of national compliance with labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labour Organization (ILO) textual sources and national legislation, by sex and migrant status	III	ILO	n/a
<b>10.7</b> Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies	<b>10.7.1</b> Recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of yearly income earned in country of destination	III	ILO, World Bank	n/a
	<b>10.7.2</b> Number of countries that have implemented well-managed migration policies	III	IOM	n/a

\* as of October 2018

TARGET	INDICATOR	CLASSIFICATION	CUSTODIAN AGENCY	DATA*
<p><b>10C</b></p> <p>By 2030, reduce to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent.</p>	<p><b>10.c.1</b></p> <p>Remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted</p>	II	World Bank	7.21 % ( <a href="#">click here</a> )
<p><b>16.2</b></p> <p>End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children.</p>	<p><b>16.2.2</b></p> <p>Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation</p>	II	UNODC	n/a
<p><b>17.3</b></p> <p>Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources <i>Note: not explicitly on migration.</i></p>	<p><b>17.3.2</b></p> <p>Volume of remittances (in United States dollars) as a proportion of total GDP</p>	I	World Bank	0.72 % ( <a href="#">click here</a> )
<p><b>17.18</b></p> <p>By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data, disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.</p>	<p><b>17.3.2</b></p> <p>Proportion of sustainable development indicators produced at the national level with full disaggregation when relevant to the target, in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.</p>	III	UN DESA	n/a

\* as of October 2018

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

<b>1 BETTER DATA</b>	Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies
<b>2 DRIVERS</b>	Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin
<b>3 BETTER INFORMATION</b>	Provide adequate and timely information at all stages of migration
<b>4 LEGAL DOCUMENTS</b>	Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation
<b>5 REGULAR PATHWAYS</b>	Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration
<b>6 ETHICAL RECRUITMENT AND DECENT WORK</b>	Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work
<b>7 VULNERABILITIES</b>	Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration
<b>8 MISSING MIGRANTS</b>	Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants
<b>9 SMUGGLING</b>	Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants
<b>10 TRAFFICKING</b>	Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration
<b>11 BORDER MANAGEMENT</b>	Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner

<b>12 ASSESSMENT AND REFERRAL</b>	Strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment and referral
<b>13 DETENTION</b>	Use migration detention only as a measure of last resort and work towards alternatives
<b>14 CONSULAR PROTECTION</b>	Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle
<b>15 BASIC SERVICES</b>	Provide access to basic services for migrants
<b>16 FULL INCLUSION</b>	Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion
<b>17 DISCRIMINATION AND PERCEPTIONS</b>	Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration
<b>18 SKILLS TRAINING AND RECOGNITION</b>	Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences
<b>19 DIASPORA</b>	Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries
<b>20 REMITTANCES</b>	Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants
<b>21 RETURN AND REINTEGRATION</b>	Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration
<b>22 PORTABILITY OF SOCIAL SECURITY</b>	Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits
<b>23 PARTNERSHIPS</b>	Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration



**GLOBAL MIGRATION INDICATORS**  
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