

IOM Asia-Pacific Regional Data Hub

# REGIONAL SECONDARY DATA REVIEW

March 2021

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IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society. As an intergovernmental organization, IOM acts with its partners in the international community to: assist in meeting the operational challenges of migration; advance understanding of migration issues; encourage social and economic development through migration; and uphold the human dignity and well-being of migrants.

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IOM Asia-Pacific Regional Data Hub

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March 2021

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# ACRONYMS

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<b>ADB</b>	Asian Development Bank
<b>ASEAN</b>	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
<b>CTDC</b>	Counter Trafficking Data Collaborative
<b>DTM</b>	Displacement Tracking Matrix
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>GIDD</b>	Global Internal Displacement Database
<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>IMF</b>	International Monetary Fund
<b>MPP</b>	Missing Migrant Project
<b>OECD</b>	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>SDR</b>	Secondary Data Review
<b>RDH</b>	Regional Data Hub
<b>ROAP</b>	Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UNAIDS</b>	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
<b>UN DESA</b>	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
<b>UN ESCAP</b>	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>UNODC</b>	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organization

# TERMINOLOGY

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02

## ASIA-PACIFIC / ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

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In this document, the referral of countries within the Asia-Pacific region follows IOM's definition and includes the following countries: Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Cook Islands, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Indonesia, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Myanmar, Mongolia, Malaysia, Nepal, Nauru, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, The Philippines, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Viet Nam and Samoa.

## ASYLUM SEEKER

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An asylum seeker is “(a) person who seeks safety from persecution or serious harm in a country other than his or her own and awaits a decision on the application for refugee status under relevant international and national instruments. In case of a negative decision, the person must leave the country and may be expelled, as may any non-national in an irregular or unlawful situation, unless permission to stay is provided on humanitarian or other related grounds.”<sup>1</sup>

## DATASET

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A dataset is a structured set of data generally associated with a unique body of work.

## DATABASE

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A database is an organized set of data stored as multiple datasets.

## FORCED MIGRATION

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Forced migration is “a migratory movement which, although the drivers can be diverse, involves force, compulsion, or coercion.”<sup>1</sup> The definition includes a note that clarifies that, “(w)hile not an international legal concept, this term has been used to describe the movements of refugees, displaced persons (including those displaced by disasters or development projects), and, in some instances, victims of trafficking. At the international level, the use of this term is debated because of the widespread recognition that a continuum of agency exists rather than a voluntary/forced dichotomy and that it might undermine the existing legal international protection regime.”<sup>1</sup>

## INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT

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“Any person who is outside a State of which he or she is a citizen or national, or, in the case of a stateless person, his or her State of birth or habitual residence. The term includes migrants who intend to move permanently or temporarily, and those who move in a regular or documented manner as well as migrants in irregular situations.”<sup>1</sup>

## INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPs)

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Internally displaced persons refer to “(p)ersons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border.”<sup>1</sup>

## IRREGULAR MIGRATION

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Irregular migration refers to “(m)ovement of persons that takes place outside the laws, regulations, or international agreements governing the entry into or exit from the State of origin, transit or destination”<sup>1</sup>.

## JUS SOLI

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According to UNTERM definition, jus soli refers to the “rule that nationality is acquired by birth on the territory of the state concerned.”

## JUS SANGUINIS

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According to UNTERM definition, jus sanguinis refers to the “rule that nationality is conferred by descent.”

## LABOUR MIGRANT / MIGRANT WORKER

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A migrant worker or labour migrant is “(a) person who is to be engaged, is engaged or has been engaged in a remunerated activity in a State of which he or she is not a national.”<sup>1</sup>

## MIGRANT SMUGGLING

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Migrant smuggling refers to “(t)he 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>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> International Organization for Migration (2019), Glossary on Migration. Available at: <https://publications.iom.int/books/international-migration-law-ndeg34-glossary-migration>.

## REFUGEE

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A refugee is “(a) person who, owing to a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinions, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country (Art. 1(A) (2), Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, Art. 1A(2), 1951 as modified by the 1967 Protocol).”<sup>2</sup>

## REMITTANCES

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Remittances refer to “(p)ersonal monetary transfers, cross border or within the same country, made by migrants to individuals or communities with whom the migrant has links.”<sup>2</sup>

## TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS / HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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Trafficking in persons refers to “(t)he recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.”<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.



Rice paddy workers head home to their villages, Siem Reap province, Cambodia | © IOM 2016 / Muse MOHAMMED

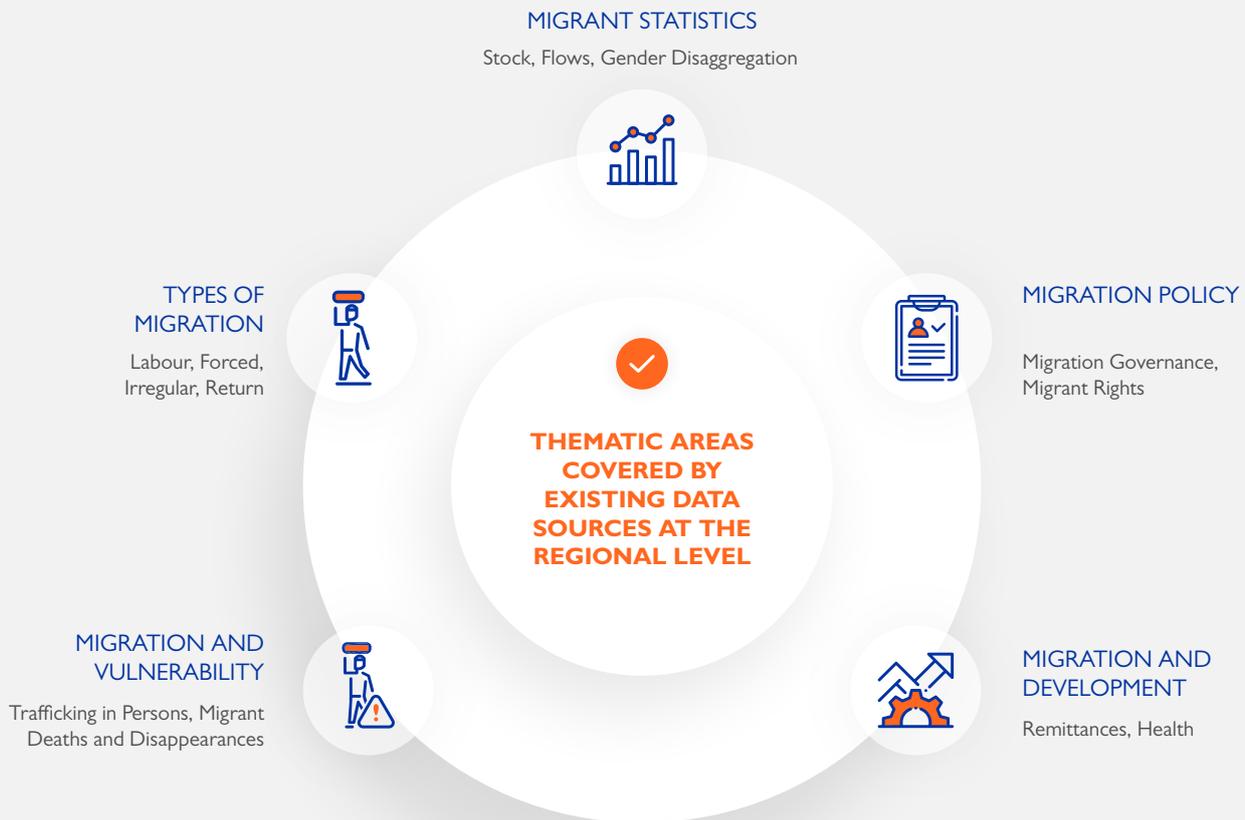
# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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03

The Regional Secondary Data Review is a product of the Asia-Pacific Regional Data Hub (RDH). The main aim of this report is to provide an overview of the main data sources<sup>3</sup> available at the regional level to understand migration dynamics, drivers, impacts and policies in Asia

and the Pacific region. The report also discusses gaps and limitations in existing data. Based on the results of the Regional Secondary Data Review, the areas of strength and limitation of regional migration data are summarized as follows:



**AREAS OF THEMATIC COVERAGE TO BE STRENGTHENED AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL**



**TYPES OF MIGRATION**

Internal, Family, Labour, Irregular, Return



**MIGRATION AND VULNERABILITY**

Urbanization, Health



**MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

Emergencies, Trafficking In Persons, Migrant Smuggling, Children and Youth, Older Persons, Gender-Based Violence

<sup>3</sup> Since this review is designed to be a live document to which new information sources can be added throughout the lifecycle of the Asia-Pacific Regional Data Hub, the current version might not yet exhaustively cover all existing data sources.

## REGIONAL DATA AVAILABILITY IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Theme	SDG indicator	Data source
<b>Migration statistics</b>		
<b>Migration stock</b>		UN DESA International Migrant Stock
		UN DESA World Population Prospects
		OECD Database on Immigrants in OECD and non-OECD Countries (DIOC-E)
<b>Migration flows</b>		World Bank Global Bilateral Migration Database
		World Bank Bilateral Migration Matrix
		DEMIG TOTAL Data DEMIG C2C Data
<b>Types of migration</b>		
<b>Labour migration</b>		ILOSTAT
(a) Recruitment cost	SDG 10.7.1	ILO International Labour Migration Statistics Database in ASEAN (ILMS) UNESCAP Labour Migration Outflow Database KNOMAD-ILO Migration and Recruitment Costs Surveys
<b>Forced migration</b>	SDG 11.5.1	UNHCR Refugee Population Statistics Database IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix IDMC Global Internal Displacement Database
<b>Irregular migration</b>		Eurostat Database
<b>Return migration</b>		Eurostat Database
<b>Student migration</b>		UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS)
<b>Migration and vulnerability</b>		
<b>Trafficking in persons</b>	SDG 16.2.2	IOM Counter Trafficking Data Collaborative US Department of State Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report ILO and Walk Free Foundation Global Estimates of Modern Slavery UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons
<b>Migrant deaths and disappearances</b>		IOM Missing Migrants Project
<b>Migration policy</b>		
<b>Migration governance</b>		UN DESA and IOM SDG Indicator 10.7.2.
(a) Implementation of well-managed migration policies	SDG 10.7.2	IOM Migration Governance Indicators
<b>Migrant rights</b>		OHCHR Treaty Body Database: Ratifications and Reservations OHCHR Human Rights Indicators. Interactive Map: Status of Ratification of Human Rights Treaties
(a) Ratification of key international human rights instruments	SDG 8.8.2	UNODC Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws On Crime (SHERLOC) ILO NATLEX Database
<b>Migration and development</b>		
<b>Remittances</b>		World Bank Annual Remittances
(a) Volume of remittances	SDG 10.c.1	World Bank Bilateral Remittance Matrices
(b) Remittance costs		World Bank Remittance Prices Worldwide
<b>Health</b>		IOM Migration Health Research Portal
(a) Health status and determinants	SDG 3.3.1	UNAIDS, UNICEF, WHO and ADB HIV and AIDS Data Hub for Asia-Pacific
(b) Health system		WHO Health of Refugees and Migrants: Regional Situation Analysis, Practices, Experiences, Lessons Learned and Ways Forward



A community leader standing where his garden used to be a decade ago. Papua New Guinea | © IOM 2016 / Muse MOHAMMED

# INTRODUCTION

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04

Despite a growing volume of migration-related data in recent decades, the need for a reliable, nuanced and harmonized evidence base, reflecting both current and historical migration developments in Asia and the Pacific region, remains – notably when it comes to policymaking, planning and operational purposes, and informing the public discourse on migration. In the same spirit, *Objective 1 of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration* calls for *collecting and utilizing accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies*. The Asia-Pacific Regional Data Hub (RDH) aspires to reference a comprehensive set of such data to bolster the knowledge and evidence base for effective migration policy, to strengthen programmes and to support innovation in the region.

The Secondary Data Review is a precursor to the forthcoming 2020 Asia-Pacific Migration Data Report. It seeks to establish an information baseline

by identifying authoritative quantitative sources of knowledge related to migration trends, drivers, impacts, characteristics and policies specifically in the Asia-Pacific region. It also highlights the data gaps and limitations, and references associated reports. This set of resources is designed to be a live document to which new information sources can be added throughout the lifecycle of the Asia-Pacific Regional Data Hub.

In the following section, the review will be presented by thematic area, and encompass four components: (i) a snapshot of available regional statistics, (ii) identification of relevant databases or datasets, (iii) discussion of data gaps and limitations, and (iv) an inventory of resources. The conclusion of this report will discuss remaining challenges of migration data collection in the region.

### Definition of Secondary Data Review (SDR):

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- A rigorous process of secondary data compilation, synthesis and analysis that builds on a desk study of relevant information available from diverse sources, including international organizations, governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and media.
  - Data can be considered secondary if:
    1. it has been collected by another institution, person or entity;
    2. the rationale behind its collection differs from the objectives of one's research; and/or
    3. the data have undergone some level of analysis prior to one's utilization of it.
-



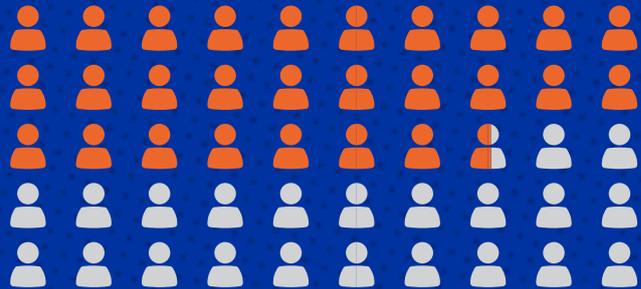
# KEY MIGRATION TRENDS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC REGION

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# 4.3 BILLION

people reside in Asia and the Pacific

**55%** of the world's population



International migrant stock (UN DESA, 2020\*)



In the region  
**42,602,282**



**9%**

Net migration rate (UN DESA, 2020\*)



From countries in the region  
**83,730,993**



**39%**

Share of countries reported having well-managed migration policies (UN DESA, IOM 2019)

Refugees and asylum seekers (UNHCR, 2020\*)



In the region  
**4,416,179**



**48%**

Average ratification of 18 key human rights treaties (OHCHR, 2014)



From countries in the region  
**5,488,501**

Internally Displaced Persons (IDMC, 2019)



New conflict-induced internal displacements:  
**785,520**



**3,139**

Reported cases of migrant deaths and disappearances in the region (IOM MMP, Jan 2014–Oct 2020)



New disaster-induced internal displacements  
**19,567,444**



**17,171**

Number of assisted human trafficking victims from the region (IOM CTDC, 2009–2019)

Remittances (World Bank, 2019)

**302**

billion USD  
Inflow

**80**

billion USD  
Outflow

\* Estimates by mid-year 2020.  
All data are updated as of March 2021

REVIEW BY  
THEMATIC AREA

05

This Regional Secondary Data Review focuses on large scale, publicly accessible international and regional databases and datasets containing information that can be compiled to provide a regional overview, given their high representativeness and comparability at the regional level. The main data providers of such kind include the International Organization for Migration (IOM), other United Nations (UN) agencies and international organizations. The scope of this data mapping exercise is primarily defined by the thematic pillars of RDH (Figure 1).

One of the main objectives of the Asia-Pacific Regional Data Hub is to facilitate IOM's country offices and State Governments in monitoring national progress

towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Global Compact for Migration. In light of this objective, SDG indicators with explicit reference to migration (Appendix I) and Global Compact for Migration objectives (Appendix II) are prioritized in the search, followed by SDG-related indicators that mainly concern the disaggregation of relevant indicators by migration status.

The structure of the following section is as such: in each thematic area, available statistics will be presented. Relevant databases and datasets will then be outlined, followed by a discussion of data gaps and limitations and an inventory of relevant resources such as reports associated with the data sources described.

**Figure 1:**  
RDH thematic pillars of migration data

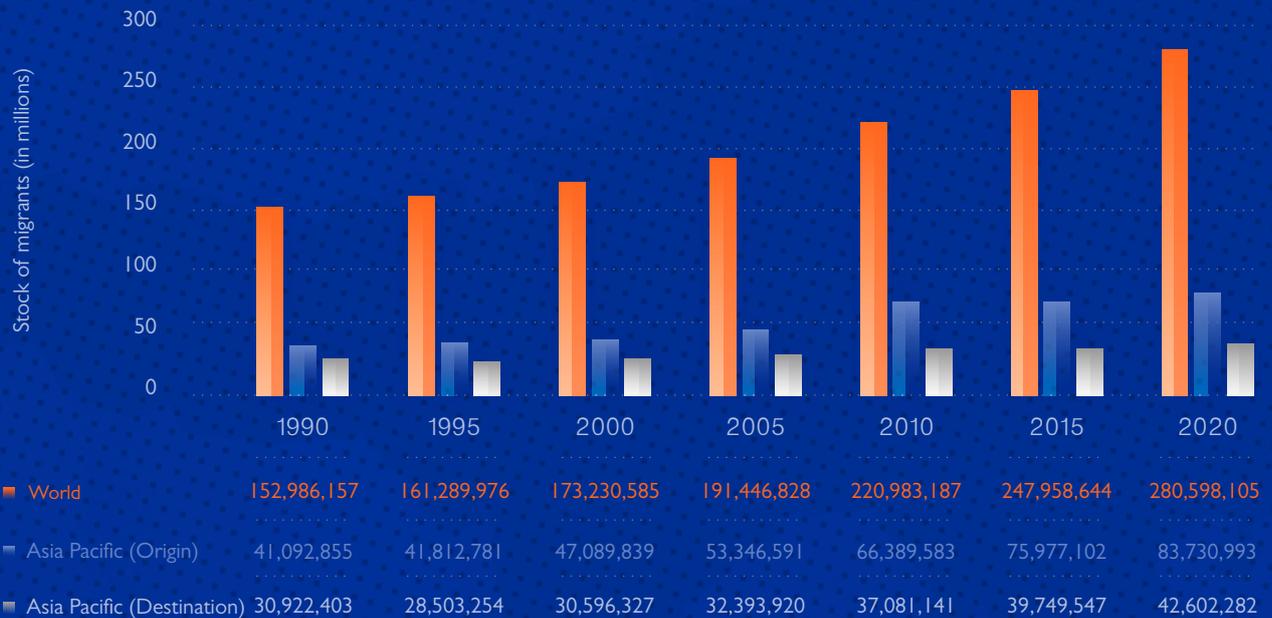


## 5.1 Migration Statistics: The Regional Overview

As of mid-year 2020, the number of estimated international migrants worldwide reached nearly 281 million (UN DESA, 2020). This number has been on the rise over the past three decades (Figure 2), with an increase of 83 per cent between 1990 and 2020. Countries in the Asia-Pacific region were among the major countries of origin of international migrants. More than 83.7 million migrants, comprising almost 30 per cent of international migrants globally, came from Asia-Pacific countries, which is twice what it was (41 million) in 1990 (Figure 3). The biggest senders were (from largest to smallest sender) India, China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, The Philippines, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Myanmar, Viet Nam and Nepal, collectively making up 83 per cent of the international migrant stock from the region. Out-migration from these major origin countries mostly (80%) ended up in another Asia-Pacific country.

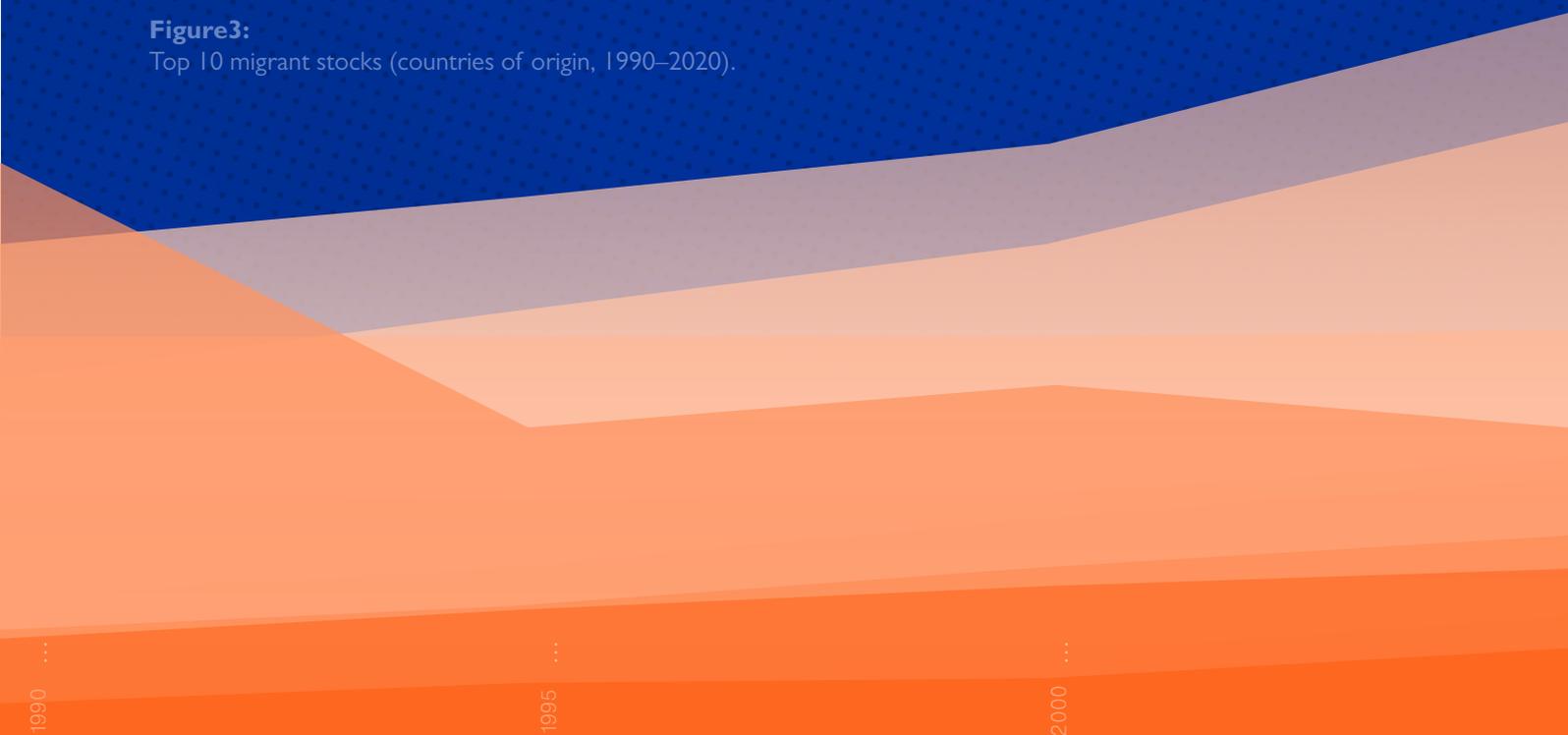
As the destination of migration, in 2020 the Asia-Pacific region received in total 42.6 million international migrants, that is, about 15 per cent of international migrant stock. Compared to the level in 1990, this figure has increased by about 38 per cent – which is not as significant as the rise in the scale of out-migration from the region. Within this region, the ten largest stocks of international migrants were in Australia, India, China, Thailand, Malaysia, Pakistan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Bangladesh, Singapore – collectively accounting for 88 per cent of the stock of migrants in Asia-Pacific countries (Figure 4). A gradual increase in the international migrant stock in proportion to the total population was seen in the region from 1990 to 2020 (from 3.5% to 4.6% in the Pacific, from 1.7% to 3.5% in South-East Asia, from 1.4% to 1.9% in South Asia, and from 0.5% to 0.9% in East Asia), with the exception of a continued decline in South-West Asia (from 6.6% to 3.9%).

**Figure 2:**  
Global stocks of migrants, world vs Asia-Pacific countries.



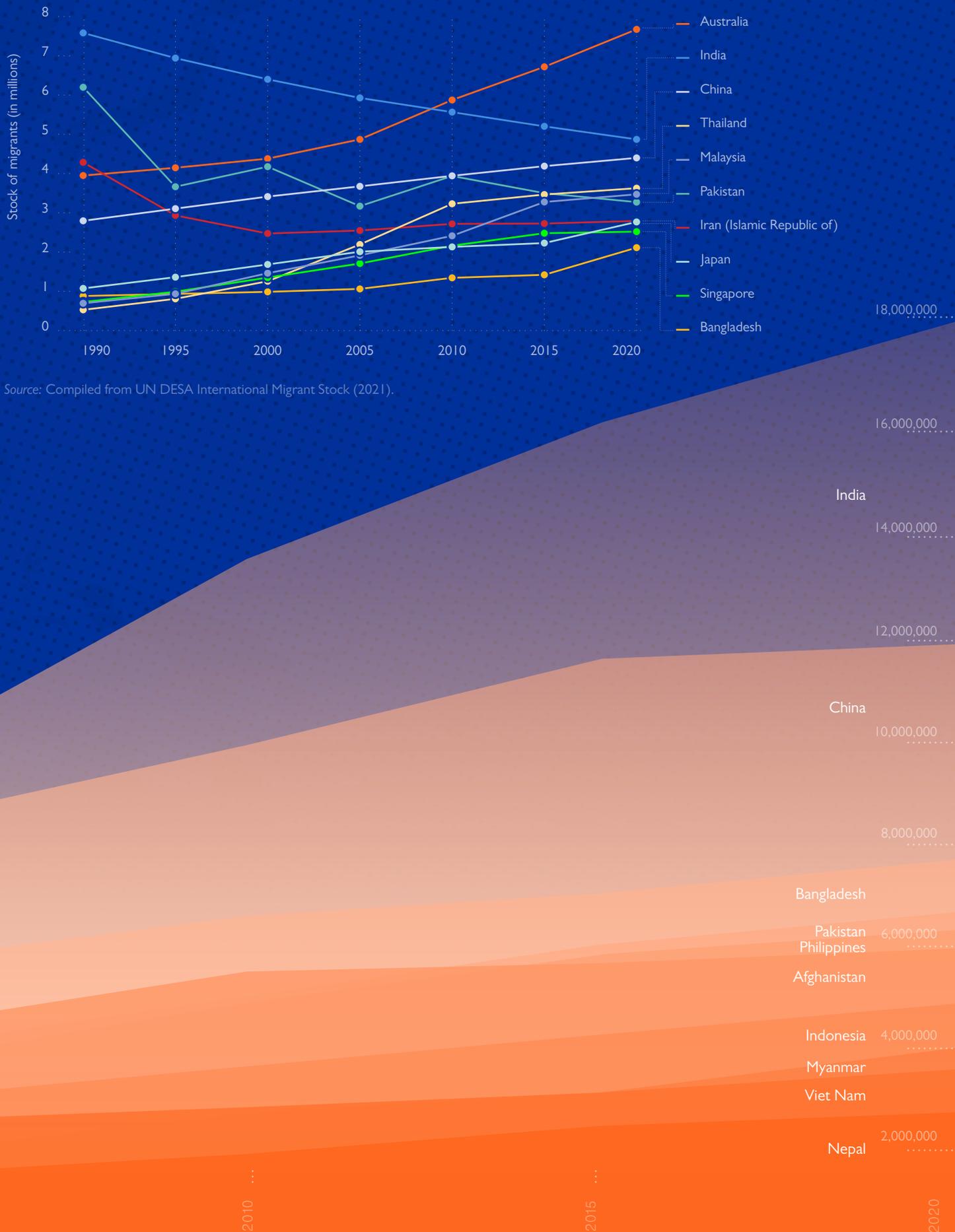
Source: Compiled from UN DESA International Migrant Stock (2021).

**Figure3:**  
Top 10 migrant stocks (countries of origin, 1990–2020).



Source: Compiled from UN DESA International Migrant Stock (2021).

**Figure 4:**  
Top 10 migrant stocks (countries of destination, 1990–2020).



Source: Compiled from UN DESA International Migrant Stock (2021).

## DATA AVAILABILITY

Four key global data sources provide harmonized global estimates on the stocks of international migrants according to countries of destination and countries of origin: The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs' (UN DESA) *International Migrant Stock*, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) *Database on Immigrants in OECD and non-OECD Countries (DIOC-E)*, the World Bank's *Global Bilateral Migration Database* and *Bilateral Migration Matrices*, the International Migration Institute and University of Oxford's *DEMIG TOTAL Data* and the University of Oxford's *DEMIG C2C Data*. These data sources effectively map out the entire global migrant population for any given pair of countries. Once the primary data are in place, each set of estimates applies various additional assumptions to harmonize the data, bridging any remaining gaps using imputation.

### UN DESA INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT STOCK

Compiled by UN DESA's Population Division, the *International Migrant Stock* database presents estimates of international migrant stocks at the mid-point of each available year (1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015 and 2020 in the 2020 version) and for all countries, regions and areas of the world. Such estimates are mostly grounded on basic data obtained from national population censuses, as well as from population registers and nationally representative surveys. For countries deemed not to have included refugees and asylum seekers in official population counts, especially lower-middle income countries, the migrant stocks include estimates on the number of refugees and asylum seekers produced by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNWRA).

The latest figures in this database are analysed in a flagship report published on a biennial basis. *The International Migration Report* presents information on the global levels, trends and impacts related to international migration. In addition to migration characteristics, the report highlights the available legal instruments to protect the rights of migrant workers and of refugees, and to combat migrant smuggling and human trafficking – notably the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, and the Global Compact on Refugees.

### OECD DATABASE ON IMMIGRANTS IN OECD AND NON-OECD COUNTRIES (DIOC-E)

The OECD compiled and analysed demographic and labour market data based on the 2000 and 2010 population censuses of OECD countries. It later joined efforts with the World Bank in a project aimed at extending the coverage of the database to immigrants in OECD Countries (DIOC) and later to immigrants in non-OECD destination countries (DIOC Extended, or DIOC-E).

*The Database on Immigrants in OECD and non-OECD Countries* covers 110 million migrants aged 15 years and older, and includes information on their demographic characteristics (age and gender), durations of stay, labour market outcomes (such as labour market status, occupation, sectors of activity), fields of study, educational attainment and places of birth. The data collection exercise notably makes it possible to disaggregate emigration rates by skill level. As such, in addition to migration stocks, this database provides information on labour migration.

The DIOC-E 2000 database contains information related to migrants in and from 32 OECD member countries and 68 non-member countries, disaggregated by country of birth. The Asia-Pacific countries and regions included in the latter group are Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR), China, India, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Macao SAR, China, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, The Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand. The DIOC-E 2010 database contains information related to migrants in and from 55 non-OECD countries and 50 non-OECD countries. The Asia-Pacific countries and regions featured in this set include Hong Kong SAR, China, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Malaysia, Palau, The Philippines and Thailand.

Two papers harness the insights provided by these databases: the *International Migrants in Developed, Emerging and Developing Countries: An Extended Profile* (2010) and *A New Profile of Migrants in the Aftermath of the Recent Economic Crisis* (2014). These publications refine the understanding of the relative importance of migration in different regions of the world and shed light on key issues such as the gender dimension of international migration and the selectivity of migration flows.

## WORLD BANK MIGRATION DATABASES

In a similar fashion, the World Bank's *Global Bilateral Migration Database* estimates international migrant stocks in 232 countries over five temporal points, corresponding to completed census rounds: 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990 and 2000. Over one thousand censuses and population register records were combined to construct the gender-disaggregated decennial matrices. *Bilateral Migration Matrices* were later produced by the World Bank (following a different methodology) for the years 2010, 2013 and 2017, this time for 214 countries organized in country pairs. Both the Bilateral Database and the Bilateral Matrix datasets rely on UN DESA stock estimates, complemented by other population censuses and updated figures from host countries.

In conjunction to these datasets, the World Bank regularly releases *Migration and Development Briefs*. These briefs feature the latest updates on global trends in migration, highlight the status of the migration-related SDG indicators for which the World Bank is a custodian, and examine recent developments related to Global Compact for Migration..

## DEMIG DATABASES

Compiled by the University of Oxford and International Institute of Migration, two DEMIG databases on international migration flows, namely, the *DEMIG TOTAL Data* and *DEMIG C2C Data*, are publicly accessible for quantitative analysis of the long-term evolution of international migration. In the DEMIG TOTAL Data, the total immigration, emigration and net migration flows for 161 countries worldwide, of which 14 are Asian countries, three regions of China, and 12 Pacific countries according to IOM's definition, are based on historical national statistics from the United Nations Demographic Yearbook and national institutions. Years of observation span from as early as the 1800s to 2011, with disaggregation for citizens and foreigners depending on data availability.

As for the DEMIG C2C Data, it contains bilateral migration flow data for 34 countries in Europe, South America and North America and Oceania from up to 236 countries over the period 1946–2011. The DEMIG C2C Data include data for inflows, outflows and net flows for citizens, foreigners and/or citizens and foreigners combined respectively. Although only one country

from Asia and the Pacific region was covered, namely Australia, the outflows from Asia-Pacific countries to these destinations can be traced.

## DATA GAP

Existing data on international migration are known to be subject to disparities in definition and data collection methodology, limited comparability, a lack of adequate statistics and disaggregation, and geographical and population coverage.<sup>4</sup> In general, reporting discrepancies exist between the number of immigrants from country A reported by country B, and the number of emigrants to country B reported by country A. Such discrepancies arise because of differences in definition and reporting time. Indeed, the underlying definitions of “migrant” differs from country to country and depends on the census questions and methodology used – for example, whether migrants are classified according to the country of birth or citizenship.

For classification made based on country of citizenship, differences in counting are likely to exist between countries where citizenship is conferred based on *jus soli* or *jus sanguinis*. One of the effects of such difference is that children born to international migrants are excluded from the international migrant stock in the former case but included in the latter, influencing the age distribution of international migrant stock (*UN DESA, 2020*). While this divide can produce relatively consistent data within a given host country, it makes the estimates between countries sometimes difficult to compare.

The UN DESA International Migrant Stock Database, defines international migrants as follows: “international migrants have been equated with the foreign-born population whenever this information is available, which is the case in most countries or areas. In most countries lacking data on place of birth, information on the country of citizenship of those enumerated was available and was used as the basis for the identification of international migrants, thus effectively equating, in these cases, international migrants with foreign citizens.” A similar note has also been made in the *World Bank Migration Database*, specifying that the migrant stocks are “based primarily on the foreign-born concept”, as well as in the *methodology of OECD DIOC-E*, which specifies that “the variable country of birth

<sup>4</sup> Bircan ,T. et al. (2020). Gaps in Migration Research. Review of migration theories and the quality and compatibility of migration data on the national and international level. (Deliverable n°2.1). Leuven: HumMingBird project 870661 – H2020.

identifies the specific country where people were born to describe the immigrant population by detailed country of origin". Given that the UN DESA, OECD and World Bank databases prioritize data of international migrants defined according to country of birth (only when this type of data is unavailable do they use data defined according

to country of citizenship instead), full international and regional comparability is likely to be nuanced. A final note is the challenge of these databases in capturing irregular migration in the estimation of international migration stocks and flows based on government census and survey data. More discussions regarding data on irregular migration will

## RESOURCES

follow in the next section.

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- OECD, 2010. *Database on Immigrants in OECD and non-OECD Countries (DIOC-E)*
- UN DESA, 2020. *International Migrant Stock*
- UN DESA, 2019. *World Population Prospects*
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- ADB, 2019. *International Migration in Asia and the Pacific - Determinants and role of economic integration*
- IOM, 2018. *Data Report for Asia and the Pacific (internal)*
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## 5.2 Types of Migration

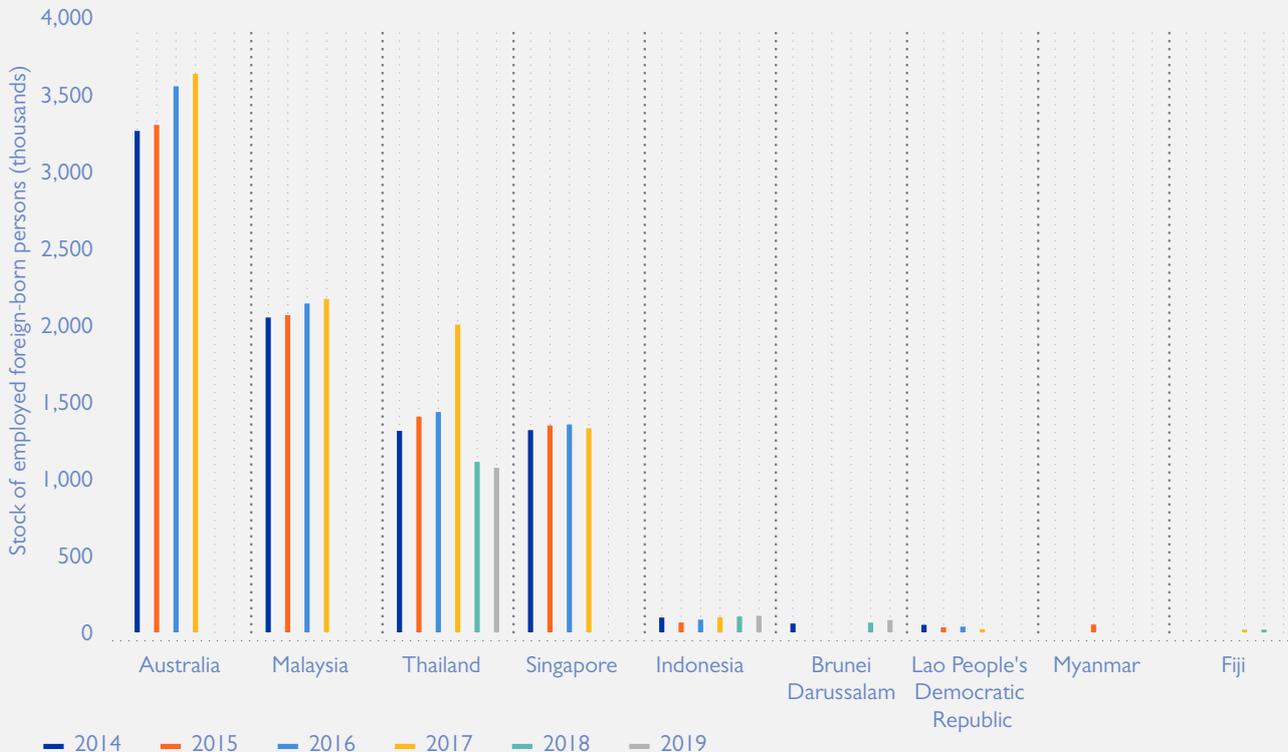
### 5.2.1 LABOUR MIGRATION

While existing databases are yet to capture labour migration stock and flows in Asia and the Pacific region as a whole, such information is available for most Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)<sup>5</sup> and a few other countries. From the International Labour Organization (ILO) International Labour Migration Statistics (ILMS) Database in ASEAN countries, which covers both stock and flows data for ASEAN Member States, it can be seen that, out of approximately 10.2 million international migrants within ASEAN member States in 2015,<sup>6</sup> labour migrants represented a significant portion in many of these countries. Although the exact number of migrants with work permit was not indicated, in countries where both the numbers of international migrants and employed migrants (defined as foreign-born persons in this

context) were available, the reported share of employed migrants mostly exceeded 40 per cent of all international migrants – and in Singapore, Malaysia, Cambodia and Brunei Darussalam specifically, the share of employed migrants exceeded 70 per cent. Considering all Asia-Pacific countries with available data in ILOSTAT (Figure 5), the largest absolute stocks of employed foreign-born persons were present in Australia, Malaysia, Thailand and Singapore over the period 2014–2019.

The outflow of nationals for employment from Asia-Pacific countries did not show a uniform increase over the observation period. As can be seen in Figure 6, The Philippines, Pakistan, and to a lesser extent Indonesia and Sri Lanka were the main senders of migrant workers among Asia-Pacific countries with available data recorded in ILOSTAT.

**Figure 5:**  
Stock of employed foreign-born persons in Asia-Pacific countries (2014–2019).



Source: Compiled from ILOSTAT (2021) and ILMS Database in ASEAN (2018).

<sup>5</sup> Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, The Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.

<sup>6</sup> ILO (2016). Migration in ASEAN in figures: The International Labour Migration Statistics (ILMS) Database in ASEAN. Available at: [www.ilo.org/asia/publications/WCMS\\_420203/lang-en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/asia/publications/WCMS_420203/lang-en/index.htm)

## DATA AVAILABILITY

Databases related to labour migration in the Asia-Pacific region rely on administrative datasets, population censuses and labour force surveys. The authoritative databases in this category include ILO's *ILOSTAT* and *ILMS Database*, the *Labour Migration Outflow Database* of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), and OECD's *Database on Immigrants in OECD and non-OECD Countries (DIOC-E)* (the latter has already been described in Section 5.1).

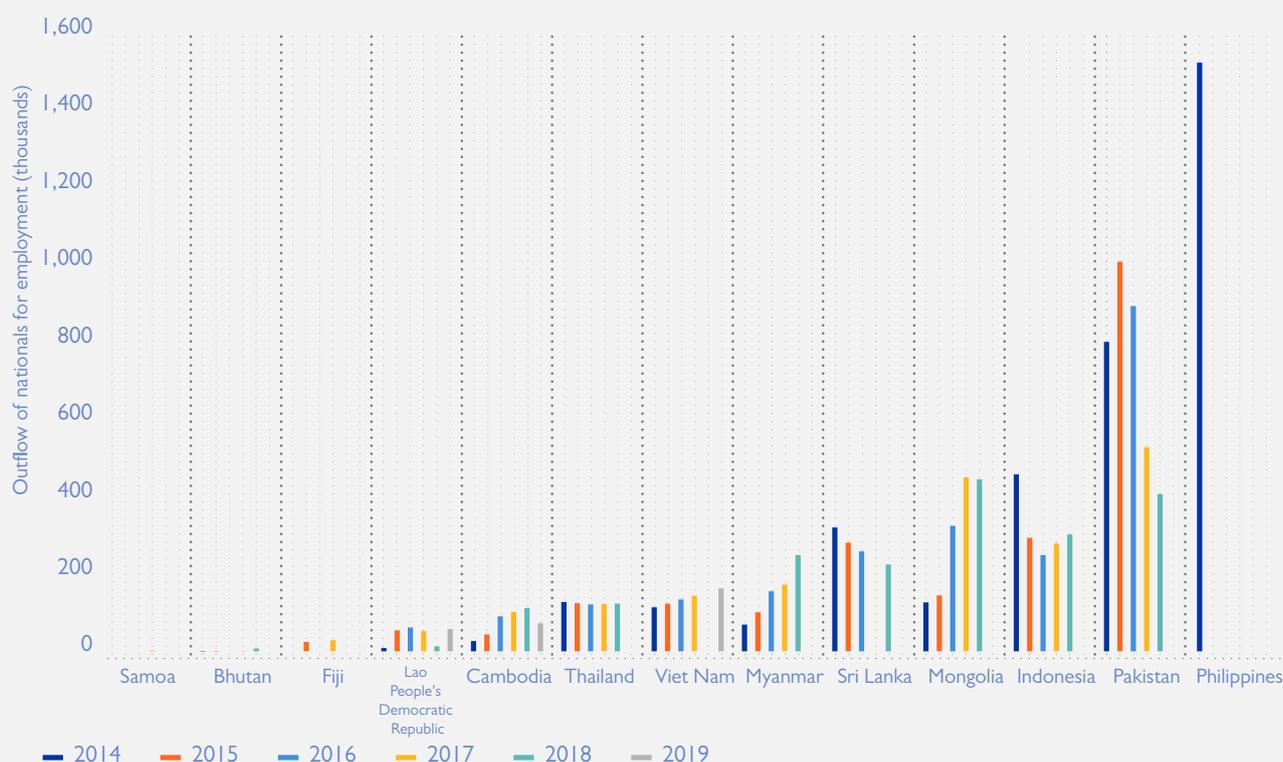
### ILO DATABASES: ILOSTAT AND INTERNATIONAL LABOUR MIGRATION STATISTICS (ILMS)

Through its *ILOSTAT Portal*, ILO compiles statistical information on migrant worker stocks, inflows and outflows, as well as characteristics such as employment rates and mean earnings. Thanks to a rich set of Labour Force Surveys and administrative records, the indicators feature detailed breakdowns by age, citizenship, economic activity, place of birth, employment status and sex. The *Global Estimates on International Migrant Workers* report compiles analytical insights gathered from this data.

As a subset of ILOSTAT, ILO also maintains the *International Labour Migration Statistics (ILMS) Database in ASEAN*. The goal is to provide a comprehensive, comparable and tractable source of statistical information on international migrant workers in, from and moving throughout the ASEAN region. The data collection effort exclusively sought official primary sources from within each ASEAN country, including relevant labour force surveys, population censuses, household surveys, enterprise-level surveys, administrative data and official government estimates, with data availability ranging from 1990 to 2017.

In conjunction with the database, ILO published an *Analytical Report on the ILMS database in ASEAN* in 2015. This report presents the demographic trends of ASEAN Member States, some of the driving forces behind the rising international migration in ASEAN, and the impact it might have on future economic and labour market outcomes. In addition, the report also evaluates the quality and completeness of the national data sources, and synthesizes recommendations to address their associated gaps and inconsistencies. The ILO conducted a similar assessment for South Asian countries in the 2018 report *International labour migration statistics in South Asia: Establishing a subregional database and improving data collection for evidence-based policymaking*.

**Figure 6:**  
Outflow of nationals for employment from Asia-Pacific countries (2014–2019).



Source: Compiled from ILOSTAT (2021) and ILMS Database in ASEAN.(2018)

To note, the ILOSTAT Portal and ILO-ILMS Database in ASEAN cover three common migration-related indicators: (i) the inflow of international migrants by employment status, (ii) outflow of nationals abroad for employment, and (iii) inflow of nationals returning from abroad. For these indicators, the databases do not cover all Asia-Pacific countries. Regarding indicator (i), data are available for ASEAN member states, Fiji, Mongolia and Samoa. Regarding indicator (ii), data are available only for Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam. Lastly, data are only available for indicator (iii) for Fiji, Indonesia, Republic of Korea and Mongolia.

## UNESCAP LABOUR MIGRATION OUTFLOW DATABASE

The *Labour Migration Outflow Database* features time series data compiled by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). The data estimate annual labour outflows from select countries of origin to select countries of destination between 1976 and 2018. The countries of origin (Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, The Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam) all belong to the Asia-Pacific region.

The outflow data come from official administrative

records of the countries of origin, typically compiled by the overseas administration and largely based on permit records for overseas employment or emigration clearance. Those administrative records are often the only available source on labour out-migration in a country. Two reports in particular feature statistical insights gathered from the analysis of this database: the *Situation Report on International Migration in East and South-East Asia* (2008), and the *Situation Report on International Migration in South and South-West Asia* (2012).

## KNOMAD-ILO MIGRATION COSTS SURVEYS 2016

The *Migration Cost Surveys* (MCS) were jointly implemented by the World Bank's Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD) and the International Labour Organization (ILO), the co-custodians of SDG indicator 10.7.1 on recruitment costs as a proportion of the incomes of workers. The surveys were conducted in multiple bilateral corridors between 2015 and 2017, including several ones with countries in the Asia-Pacific region as the destination and/or origin (Table 1). In addition to the financial and non-financial costs incurred by workers to obtain jobs abroad, the socio-demographic and migration profile, job characteristics such as amount of income earned, amount remitted and work conditions such as deprived rights are among the information collected.

**Table 1:**  
Bilateral corridors involving Asia-Pacific countries covered in the survey.

Bilateral corridors	Survey year
India to Saudi Arabia	2016
India to Qatar	2015
Philippines to Saudi Arabia	2016
Philippines to Qatar	2015
Nepal to Malaysia	2016
Nepal to Qatar	2015
Pakistan to Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates	2015
Viet Nam to Malaysia	2015

Source: Compiled from KNOMAD-ILO Migration Costs Surveys (2017).

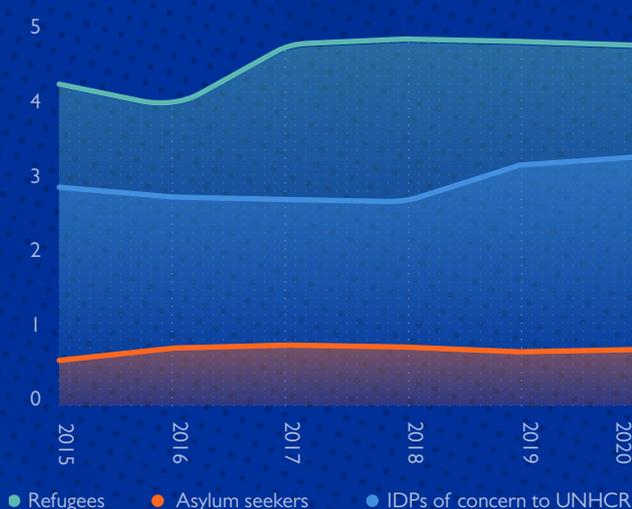
## 5.2.2 FORCED MIGRATION

*Objective 2* of the *Global Compact for Migration* calls for *minimizing the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin*. The most common causes of forced migration worldwide, either across international borders or within a country, include armed conflicts and violence, and natural disasters or hazards.

As of mid-2020, conflicts and violence around the world have forcibly displaced over 80 million people (UNHCR, 2020). This number stood at almost 8.8 million for

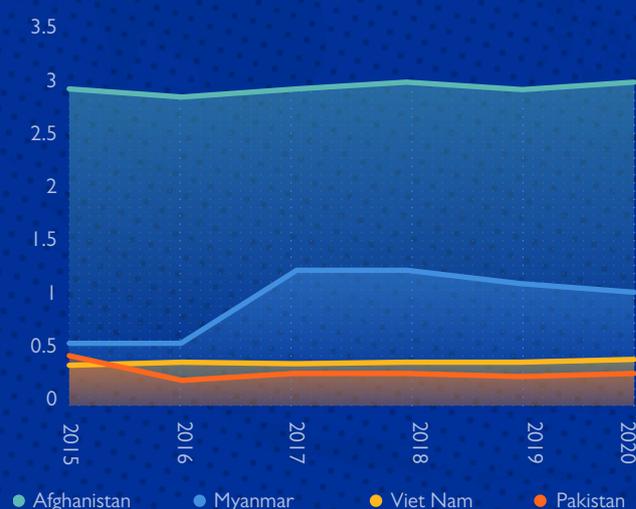
conflict-induced displaced populations originating from the Asia-Pacific region alone, accounting for 10 per cent of the global stock of conflict-induced forced displacement (Figure 7). Concerning cross-border displacement caused by conflicts and violence, the total number of refugees and asylum seekers originating from the Asia-Pacific region amounted to over 5.4 million. Slightly over half (54%) of refugees and asylum seekers originating from the region came from Afghanistan (Figure 8). The second major origin country in the region is Myanmar, which saw a rapid increase in the number of refugees and asylum seekers since 2016 and accounted for almost 20 per cent of the stock originating from this region.

**Figure 7:** Stock of refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons from Asia-Pacific countries due to conflict (2015–2020) (in million).



Source: Compiled from UNHCR Refugee Population Statistics Database (2020).

**Figure 8:** Major origin countries of refugees and asylum seekers due to conflict (2015–2020) (in million).



Source: Compiled from UNHCR Refugee Population Statistics Database (2020).

According to Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) Global Internal Displacement Database (2019), a source that covers both conflict-induced as well as disaster-induced internal displacements, the stock of internally displaced persons (IDPs) due to conflicts and violence in Afghanistan alone exceeded 2.9 million in 2019 (Figure 9). Despite the comparatively low stock of disaster-induced IDPs (Figure 10), natural disasters had been the major cause of new internal displacement in

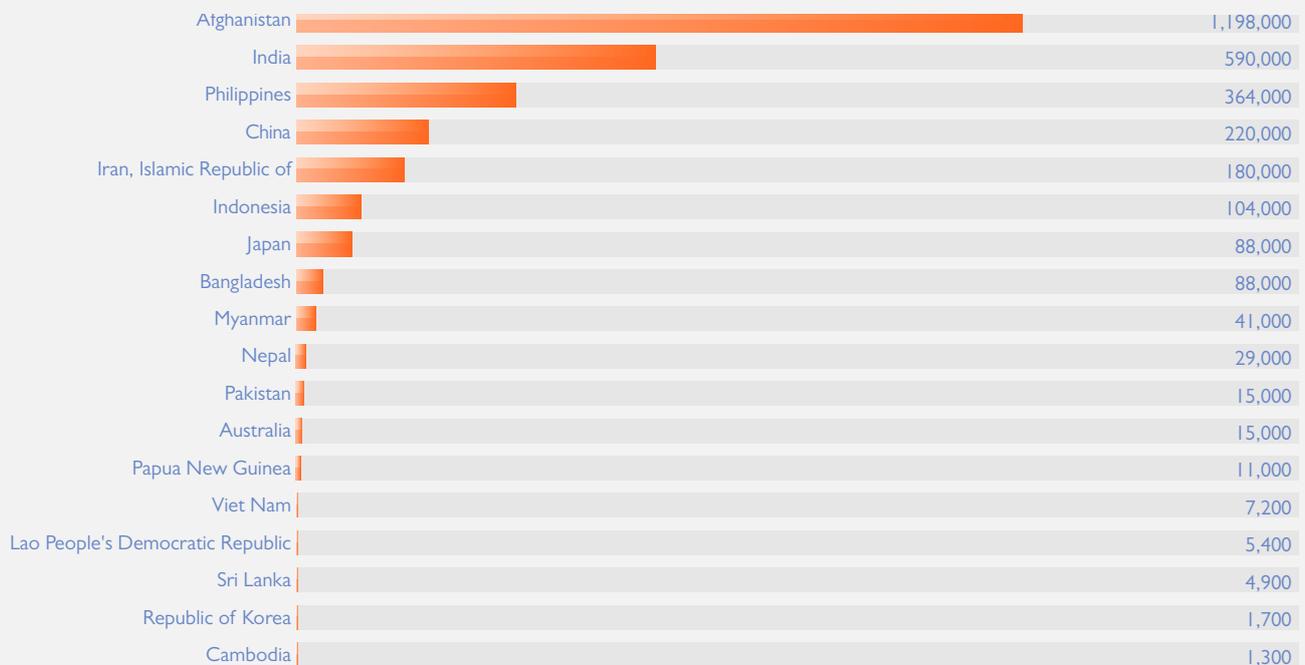
the Asia-Pacific region throughout the past decade. The number of people newly displaced due to disasters in 2019 reached a total of almost 20 million, after a drop for two consecutive years (Figure 11). These stock and flow figures plausibly suggest the high degree of vulnerability of the Asia-Pacific region to the recurrent effects of natural disasters or hazards as well as to the lasting results of conflicts and violence.

**Figure 9:**  
Stock of internally displaced persons in Asia-Pacific due to conflict and violence (2019).



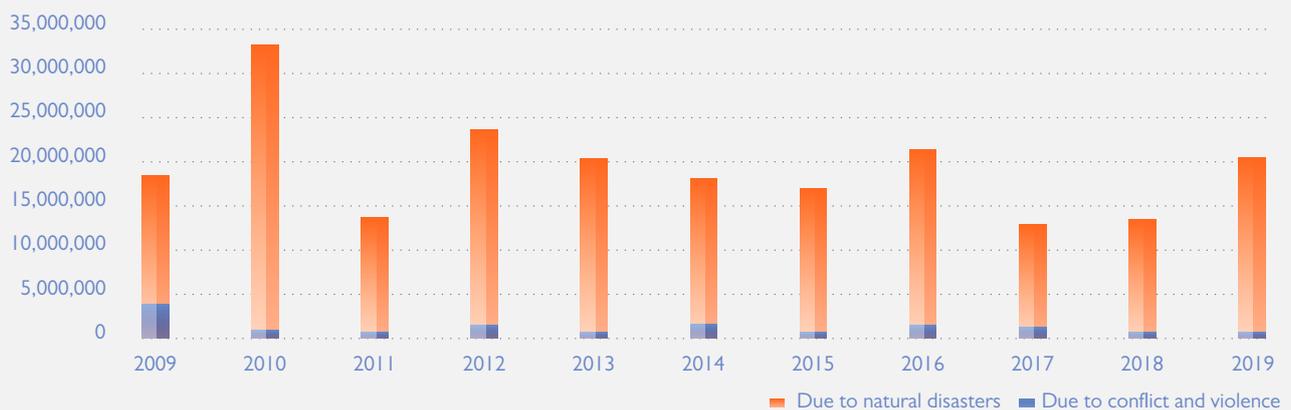
Source: Compiled from IDMC Global Internal Displacement Database (2019).

**Figure 10:**  
Stock of internally displaced persons in Asia-Pacific due to natural disasters (2019).



Source: Compiled from IDMC Global Internal Displacement Database (2019).

**Figure 11:**  
New internal displacements in Asia-Pacific (2009–2019).



Source: Compiled from IDMC Global Internal Displacement Database (2019).

## DATA AVAILABILITY

The three main databases in this thematic area, the *UNHCR Refugee Population Statistics Database*, *IDMC Global Internal Displacement Database* (GIDD) and *IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix* (DTM) provide complementary information on these subtopics. While the UNHCR database provides the number of displaced persons (considering both internal and cross-border displacement), only displacement induced by conflicts and violence is covered. The IDMC GIDD focuses on internal displacement and encompasses both conflict- and disaster-induced displacement. One of the major data sources of GIDD is IOM DTM, the largest source of primary data on internal displacement globally.

### UNHCR REFUGEE POPULATION STATISTICS DATABASE

The *UNHCR Refugee Population Statistics Database* contains information spanning seven decades (1951–2020) about forcibly displaced populations, asylum applications and decisions, and solutions regarding return, resettlement and naturalization. Five distinct datasets are listed as part of the global database:

- i. UNHCR End-of-year population figures: stock figures for specific types of populations at the end of each year, including refugees, IDPs and asylum seekers;
- ii. UNHCR Solutions: Flow figures on the number of individuals who have availed each solution each year;
- iii. IDMC GIDD: Global figures for IDPs due to conflict and violence;
- iv. UNRWA: Palestine refugees under the UNRWA mandate;
- v. Demographics data.

It is important to note that UNHCR compiles data only on IDPs displaced due to conflict to whom the organization extends protection and/or assistance. As such, UNHCR statistics do not provide an exhaustive overview of global internal displacement.

### IDMC GLOBAL INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT DATABASE (GIDD)

Hosted by the Norwegian Refugee Council, the IDMC provides verified, triangulated and multi-sourced information related to internal displacement associated with conflict, generalized violence and natural disasters. The estimates of the number of IDPs or at risk of becoming displaced across the world are compiled in the *GIDD*. GIDD also contains information on the health and location status of IDPs, the nature of the disasters, as

well as the type of sources referenced. One of the major sources of such data is IOM *DTM* (explained below).

IDMC follows two distinct methodologies to count IDPs: in the case of conflict- and violence-induced displacement, situational monitoring is conducted after the occurrence of the event and country-wide estimates of new displacement is reported during the year and at year's end. In contrast, cases of disaster-induced displacement are monitored on an event-by-event basis and a variety of sources are used to generate a reliable and comprehensive total displacement estimate for that disaster. The displacement data associated with sudden-onset natural disasters covers the 2008–2019 period, while the displacement data related to conflict and violence covers the 2003–2019 period.

IDMC complements its data collection efforts with primary and collaborative research into the drivers, patterns and impacts of internal displacement across different geographic and thematic contexts. These insights are compiled in the *Global Report on Internal Displacement*.

### IOM DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX

*DTM*, a system to track and monitor displacement and population mobility, is the largest source of primary data on internal displacement worldwide. Through mobility tracking, flow monitoring, registration and surveys, DTM gathers data on the mobility, vulnerabilities and needs of displaced and mobile populations en route or on site. Since 2004, DTM has been active in 90 countries, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, The Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vanuatu, as well as other countries outside the Asia-Pacific region that could be the countries of transit or destination for migrants and displaced persons originating from the Asia-Pacific region. DTM data are accessible in the forms of raw data, GIS products, online portal and reports.

## 5.2.3 IRREGULAR AND RETURN MIGRATION

### EUROSTAT DATABASE

As the statistical office of the European Union (EU), Eurostat maintains a *Database* on European statistics compiled from national statistical institutes and other national authorities of EU Member States. While it contains a wide range of modules, the database provides annual or quarterly data on asylum and managed migration from 2010 onwards. Since asylum and enforcement of immigration legislation (EIL) statistics can be disaggregated by the country of citizenship, gender and age, the database can be used to track irregular migration

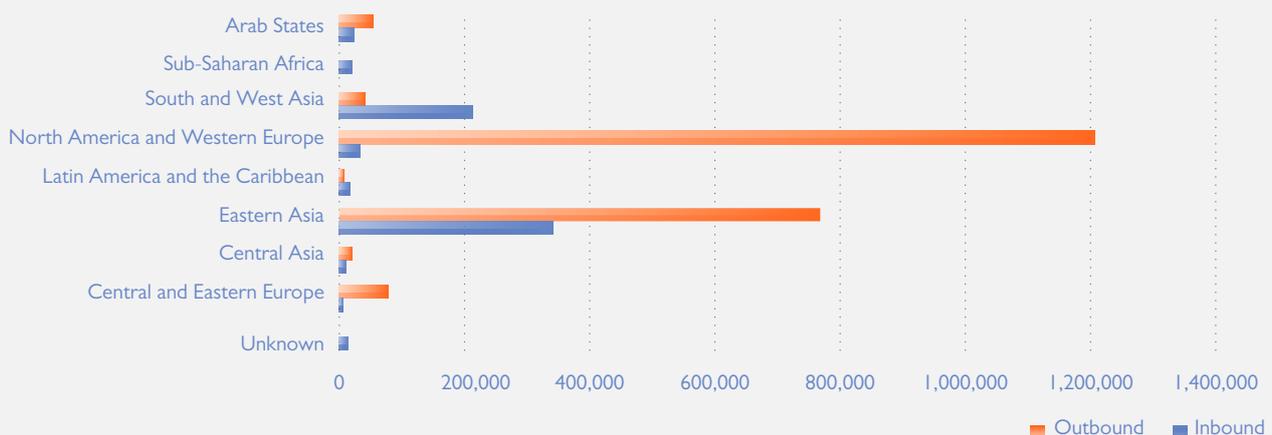
and forced return of individuals who are nationals in Asia-Pacific countries. Available statistics include the number of third-country nationals found to be irregularly present in the territory of EU Member States, ordered to leave, returned or left the territory. It also contains data on asylum applications and their decisions. In addition, the database contains specific figures on minors with foreign citizenship in EU Member States, as well as the number of identified unaccompanied minors applying for asylum.

### 5.2.4 STUDENT MIGRATION

In 2018, there were over 5.5 million international students worldwide (UNESCO, 2019). The Asia-Pacific region was a major sending region rather than host of international students, with 2.2 million outbound international students, totalling 40 per cent of the world's total. Most students from Asia-Pacific countries

were concentrated in two regions, North America and Western Europe (55%) as the most popular choice of destination for students from the Asia-Pacific countries, followed by Eastern Asia (35%) – Figure 12. While the region received much fewer students than it sent out (12% of international students worldwide), most inbound international students were from within the region, with almost half of them from Eastern Asia. Due to limited availability of data regarding country of destination (only host region available for outbound statistics), Figure 12 shows the outflow from and inflow into Asia and the Pacific region based on IOM's definition, but the regions of origin and destination follow UNESCO's definition as presented in the original database.

**Figure 12:**  
Number of inbound and outbound internationally mobile students into and from the Asia-Pacific region, by region of origin and destination in 2018.



Source: Compiled from UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2019).

## DATA AVAILABILITY

### UNESCO INSTITUTE FOR STATISTICS (UIS)

The *UNESCO Institute for Statistics* is a major source of internationally comparable data on education, science, culture and communication. As part of the theme “National Monitoring”, the inbound and outbound numbers of international mobile students by country of origin, region of origin and host region, as well as the inbound, outbound and net flow of internationally mobile students, are available from 2014 onwards. However, the number of inbound students is not available for Eastern Asia and South-East Asia at a subregional level.

## DATA GAP

Existing international migration data seldom report the visa or permit types of, reasons for or actual intentions of immigration and emigration, making it difficult to disaggregate the total stock and flows by type of migration. For example, family migration, return migration and labour migration inflows at the regional level are yet to be systematically captured in regional or international databases. While inflow of employed migrants is captured by the ILOSTAT Portal and ILO-ILMS Database, this number includes migrants with purposes of migration other than labour migration, while it does not include labour migrants who are not reported to be employed.

Labour migration data are notoriously difficult to collect reliably – labour migrants are by definition a mobile group scattered around the globe. This is particularly true regarding those whose migration is short-term and/or irregular, such as temporary, circular, seasonal and undocumented workers. The data underlying collection efforts are often too discrepant in the range of methodologies, timeline and definitions they use in order to be reasonably comparable across different countries. Official administrative records often underestimate the outflows of labour migrants, as many choose to leave the country either in search of employment, without having secured a job prior to leaving, or without official clearance.

Despite steps taken by ILO and ASEAN Member States to accurately measure and monitor flows within the region, a variety of knowledge gaps remain. Comparisons of the numbers of international migrant workers flowing between receiving countries and sending countries reveals gaps of tens or even hundreds of thousands between sources. Consequently, ILO calls for increased standardization regarding the statistical data collected across Asia-Pacific. Unfortunately, a truly accurate picture of labour migration in the region is still a long way off.

With regards to recruitment costs incurred by workers abroad as a proportion of yearly income earned in country of destination (*SDG Indicator 10.7.1*), KNOMAD-ILO Migration Costs Surveys were conducted among migrant workers in several bilateral corridors covering few countries in the Asia-Pacific region. As such, a regional overview is not available.

As regards forced migration, the fast-evolving nature of displacement events and mobility of the displaced populations highlight some of the complexities in monitoring the stocks and flows of displacement. As noted in the *Methodological Annex of IDMC GRID 2018 Global Report on Internal Displacement*, the compilation of primary and secondary data from various sources is likely to suffer reporting biases, such as under-reporting of small-scale incidents and certain types of IDPs, such as those displaced amid relatively neglected crises, those who sought refuge in urban areas, those hosted by relatives or other family members, and those who fled to remote areas. Another source of bias stems from discrepancies in the definition of “IDP” in data collection and comparability across sources. Furthermore, since the

calculated stock of IDPs partially relies on the number of returnees, the variability in identifying returnees could also lead to biases. Moreover, besides the number of displaced persons due to natural disasters, existing regional data do not provide information on cross-border displacement due to natural disasters or hazards. Finally, despite its growing importance, measuring the magnitude of climate change-induced displacements remains challenging as there is no agreed methodology on classifying displacements due to slow-onset climate disasters and other natural disasters. As such, in many contexts the caseload of climate-induced displacements does not necessarily identify as such.

Last but not least, despite the emphases of the *Global Compact for Migration* on *ensuring that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation (Objective 4)* and *enhancing availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration (Objective 5)*, existing research and literature are sparse, poorly documented, hard to access and/or not representative of the true scale and impact of irregular migration. This could be related to the complexity of irregular migration and the difficulty to arrive at a uniform definition of irregular migration. According to IOM’s discussion on the definition of irregular migration,<sup>7</sup> there are certain circumstances in which a migrant can be considered as being in an irregular situation: (i) irregular entry, for instance with false documents or without entry via an official border crossing point (ii) irregular residence, and (iii) irregular employment, when a migrant does not have the right to take up paid employment in the country. Some migrants might be in circumstances that leave them with no other choices, such as refugees, victims of human trafficking and unaccompanied minors, as noted in the IOM Glossary of Definition (2019). Given that the Eurostat Database is the only existing data source on irregular and forced return migration for migrants originating from the Asia-Pacific region, and that it records only identified irregular migrants with illegal stay and forced returnees in EU countries, it does not cover all types of irregular migration, all types of return migration, and all regions of destination. The aggregate stocks of irregular migrants and return migrants within Asia-Pacific as the country of origin as well as destination are yet to be systematically captured in regional databases.

<sup>7</sup> IOM (2020). Migration Data Portal – Types of Migration – Irregular Migration. Available at: [migrationdataportal.org/themes/irregular-migration](https://migrationdataportal.org/themes/irregular-migration).

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*Global Estimates on International Migrant Workers – Results and Methodology*
- ILO, 2019.  
*Labour Mobility in Pacific Island Countries*
- ILO, 2020.  
*Experiences of ASEAN migrant workers during COVID-19*
- IOM, 2020.  
*Rapid Assessment of the Socioeconomic Impacts of COVID-19 on Labour Mobility in the Pacific Region*
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*IOM Glossary on Migration*
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*Global Report on Internal Displacement (GRID)*
- IDMC, 2018.  
*IDMC-GRID 2018 Global Report on Internal Displacement: Methodological Annex*
- ILO, IOM and WFF, 2017.  
*Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage*



## 5.3

# MIGRATION AND VULNERABILITY

### 5.3.1 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

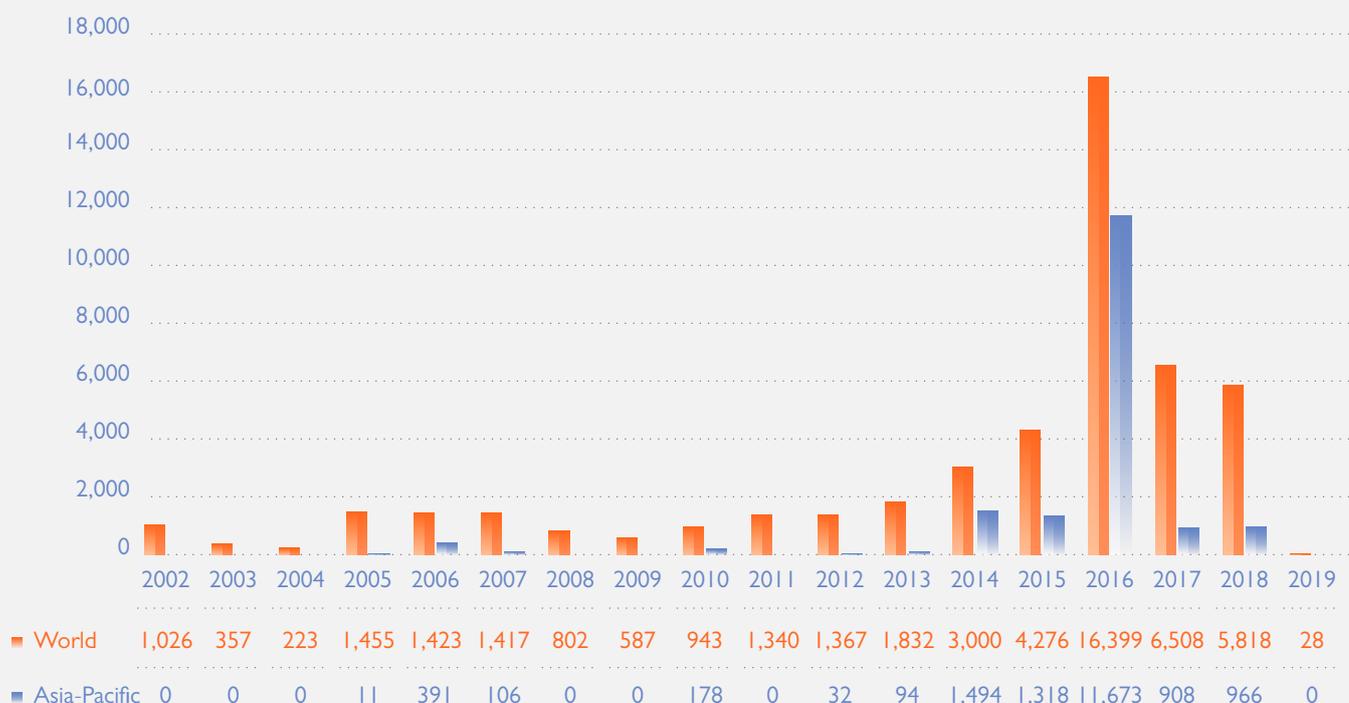
In line with *Objective 10* of the *Global Compact for Migration* which calls for *preventing, combating and eradicating trafficking in persons in the context of international migration*, *SDG Indicator 16.2.2* monitors the *number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation*.

Between 2002 and 2019, the IOM Counter-trafficking Data Collaborative (CTDC) documented 17,171 identified or assisted victims of human trafficking originating from the Asia-Pacific region, which comprised 35 per cent of total caseload assisted worldwide (Figure 13). Among these cases, two third (66%) were female. While about one third (33%) were reported as forced labour and another 8 per cent reported as sexual exploitation, the causes of the rest were classified as other or unknown. Figure 14 displays the distribution of such cases by gender and country of origin of identified victims. The increase in caseload since 2015 relates to the increase in the number of countries being observed;

the spike in caseload in 2016 is mainly attributable to a high number of cases (11,262) recorded as victims from The Philippines. This is, after investigation, mostly due to a large, sudden increase of recorded cases from CTDC partner Liberty Shared.

During the same period, 6,484 victims of human trafficking were documented to be exploited in the Asia-Pacific region, about half of them (52%) female. Forty-two per cent of the cases reported were classified as forced labour, 18 per cent as sexual exploitation, and the rest as other causes or unknown. Figure 15 displays the countries of exploitation of these reported victims. The highest numbers of reported victims were from and exploited in The Philippines. Such figures are to be interpreted with caution, since the Counter-trafficking Data Collaborative (CTDC) data collection is based on case management data and reporting entity capacity; while the profile and trafficking experiences reported could be informative, the total number of cases recorded should not be seen as fully representative of all human trafficking victims in the region.

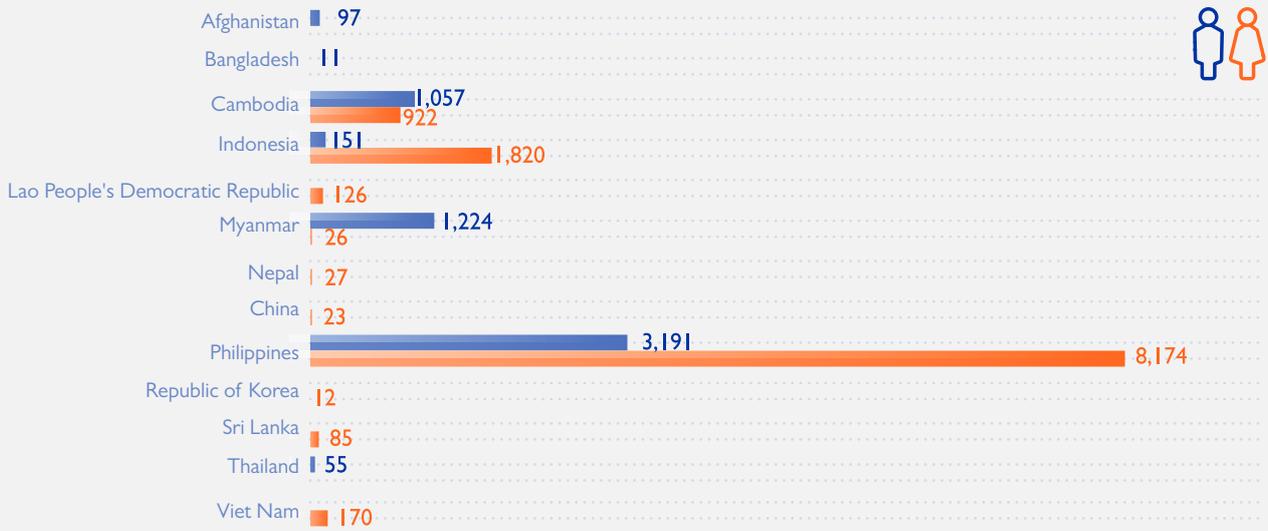
**Figure 13:**  
Reported victims of trafficking worldwide and from Asia-Pacific countries (2002–2019).



Source: Compiled from IOM-CTDC Global Dataset (2020).

**Figure 14:**

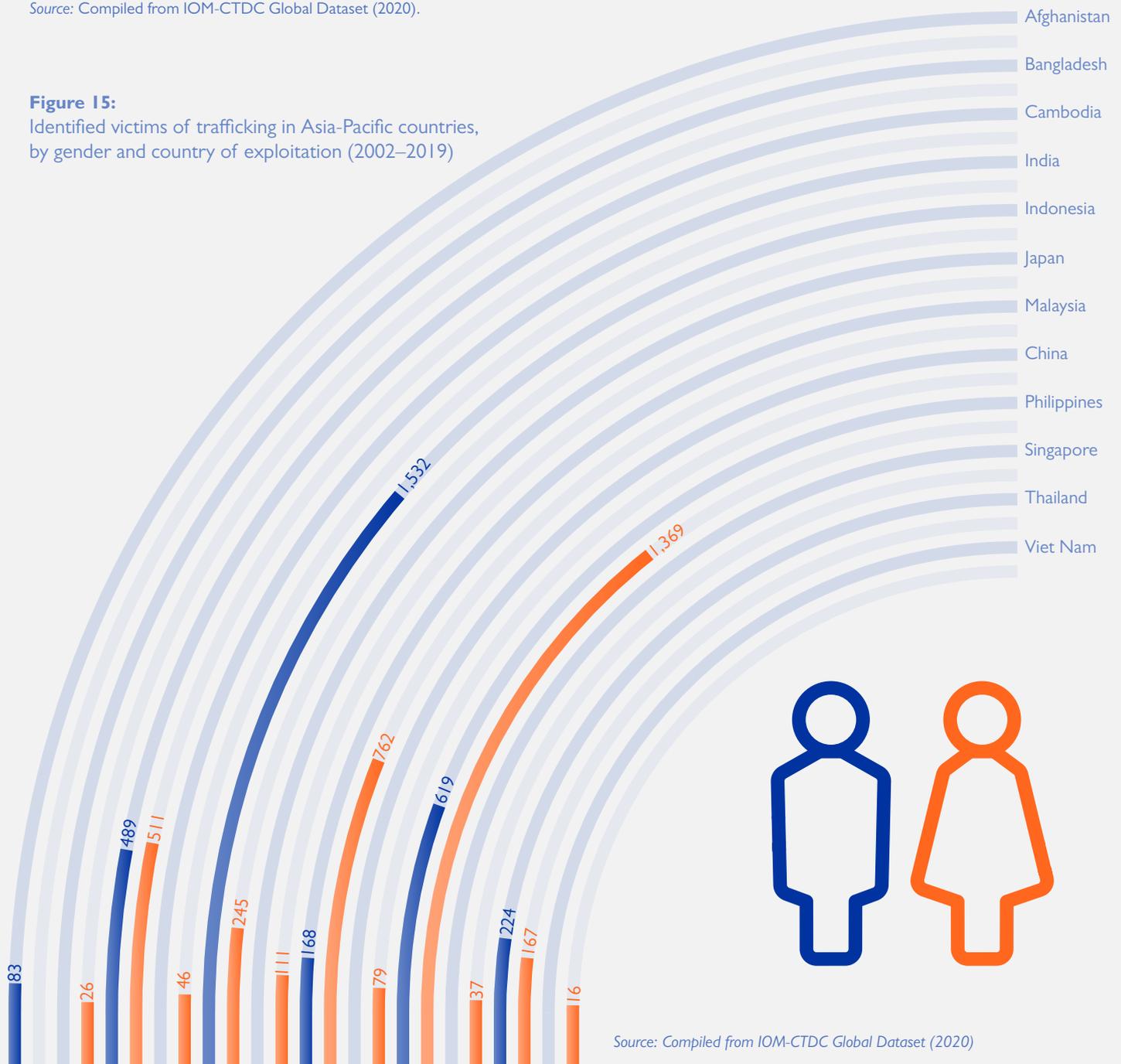
Reported victims from Asia-Pacific countries, by gender and country of citizenship (2002–2019).



Source: Compiled from IOM-CTDC Global Dataset (2020).

**Figure 15:**

Identified victims of trafficking in Asia-Pacific countries, by gender and country of exploitation (2002–2019)



Source: Compiled from IOM-CTDC Global Dataset (2020)

## DATA AVAILABILITY

The *IOM Counter Trafficking Data Collaborative* is the only global dataset on trafficking in persons. Despite the scarcity of international and regional data, three other series of reports, namely the *US Department of State Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Reports*, *ILO Global Estimates of Modern Slavery* and the *UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons* also provide valuable insights into the issue regarding number of cases, counter-trafficking policies, legislations and enforcement at the national level and global estimate of forced labour and forced marriage respectively.

### IOM COUNTER-TRAFFICKING DATA COLLABORATIVE

*CTDC* is the first and largest global data hub on human trafficking that publishes up-to-date and harmonized data compiled by IOM, Liberty Shared and Polaris. The figures are based on case management data gathered from identified cases of human trafficking from contributing organizations and disaggregated at individual level. The data provided by IOM come from the Counter-trafficking Module (CTM) of its Migrant Management Operational System Application (MiMOSA), which is the world's largest data repository of human trafficking case data. The number of observations in the CTDC dataset increases as new records are added by the contributing organizations. It is to be noted that although the CTDC data span from 2002 to 2019, the first year with observations of reported victims from Asia-Pacific countries is 2005, and by the end of the review period (with the latest update from April 2020), data for the year 2019 contain only 28 observations worldwide with no data on victims from the Asia-Pacific region.

The indicators featured in the CTDC database include the number of identified cases, victim's age range, citizenship, country of exploitation, gender, purpose for which they were trafficked, trafficking corridors, the type of relationship held with the recruiter and the means they employed to control the victim, the year in which the trafficking case was registered and the data collection method used.

### US DEPARTMENT OF STATE TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (TIP) REPORT

The US Department of State publishes annual global and country-level *Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Reports* from 2001 onwards, with the latest release in 2020 by the end of the review period. The report is a comprehensive and up-to-date source of governmental anti-trafficking efforts worldwide. By analysing information collected from

relevant governmental institutions and non-governmental organizations on national anti-trafficking law enforcement data in the areas of prosecution, protection, prevention and trafficking profile (which are sometimes not publicly accessible otherwise), the TIP report annually updates the classification of countries based on their level of fulfilment of minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking, and provides recommendations.

### ILO AND WALK FREE FOUNDATION GLOBAL ESTIMATES OF MODERN SLAVERY

Jointly developed by the ILO and Walk Free Foundation in partnership with IOM, the report *Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage* was published in 2017. It provides global and regional estimates of forced labour and forced marriage between 2012 and 2016. Various forms of forced labour were included – forced labour in private economy, forced sexual exploitation of adults, commercial sexual exploitation of children and State-imposed forced labour. The estimates were based on a variety of data sources, including 54 national probabilistic surveys involving interviews with more than 71,000 respondents across 48 countries and administrative data such as IOM CTDC.

### UNODC GLOBAL REPORT ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

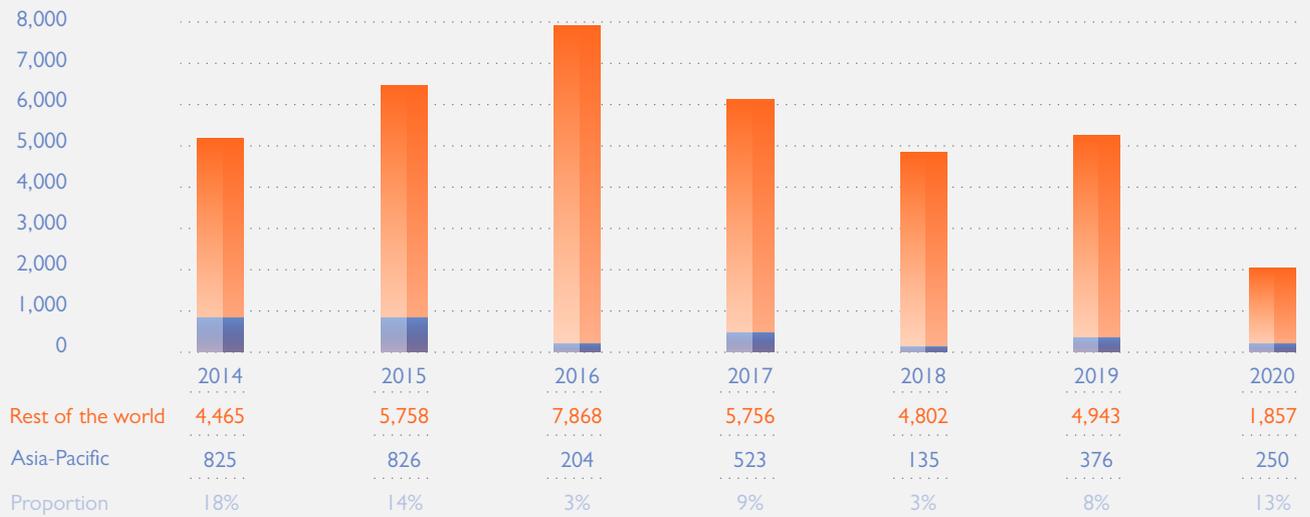
As mandated by the General Assembly through the 2010 United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, the *2020 UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons* is the sixth edition of this series (with the previous ones released in 2009, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018). It presents an overview of the global, regional and national patterns and flows of trafficking in persons, mainly based on national data collected by UNODC. Specifically, data used in the report can be downloaded from the *Annex*, including persons investigated and convicted of trafficking in persons by sex, age and citizenship, and detected victims of trafficking in persons by forms of exploitation, age, sex and citizenship.

### 5.3.2 MIGRANT DEATHS AND DISAPPEARANCES

*Objective 8* of the *Global Compact for Migration* calls for *saving lives and establishing coordinated international efforts on missing migrants*. IOM (2020) recorded a total of 3,139 reported migrant deaths and disappearances in Asia and the Pacific region from 2014 to October 2020, accounting for 8 per cent of the total worldwide.

**Figure 16:**

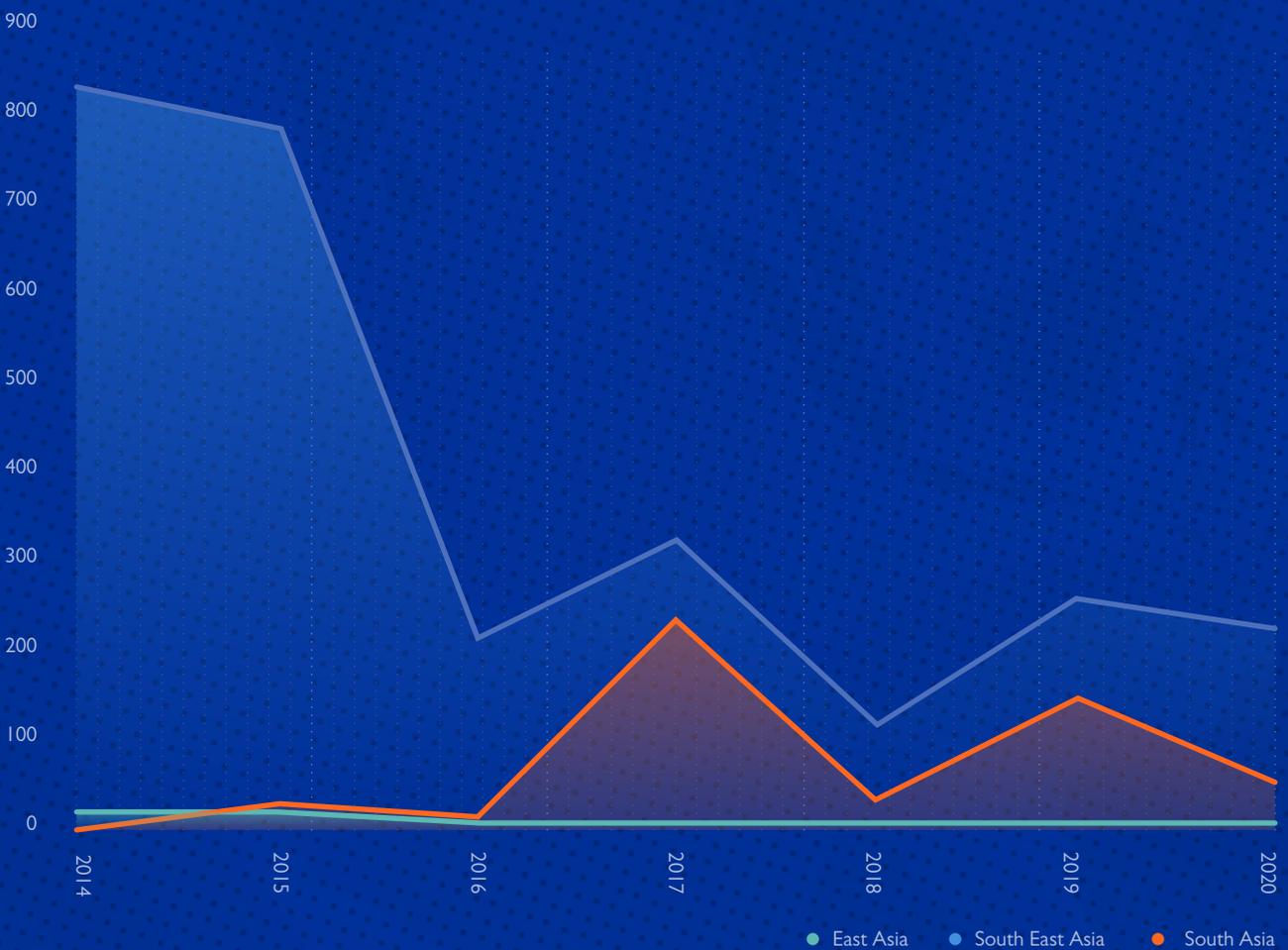
Recorded migrant deaths or disappearances, Asia-Pacific and worldwide (Jan 2014–Oct 2020).



Source: Compiled from IOM Missing Migrants Project (2020).

**Figure 17:**

Recorded migrant deaths or disappearances in Asia-Pacific subregions (Jan 2014–Oct 2020).



Source: Compiled from IOM Missing Migrants Project (2020).

From the yearly breakdown during 2014–2020 (Figure 16), the number of reported cases in the region saw a peak during the period 2014–2015. A bulk of these cases were concentrated in South-East Asia, and mostly attributable to the Andaman Sea crisis when large numbers of stateless persons attempted to reach Thailand and Malaysia from Myanmar and Bangladesh by boat (IOM, 2017) (Figure 17). From 2016 to 2017, there was again a rise in the number of reported cases in South East Asia and South Asia, mainly related to incidents of boat sinking between the coasts of Indonesia and Malaysia, and gunfire, torture or beatings that occurred on board ships in South-East Asia (IOM, 2017). While the recorded figures in 2020 decreased, they are to be interpreted with caution, considering the potentially disruptive influence on case reporting by the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic and the reporting period of this data as of October 2020.

## DATA AVAILABILITY

### IOM MISSING MIGRANTS PROJECT

IOM's *Missing Migrants Project database* tracks the count of migrants, including refugees and asylum seekers, who have passed away or gone missing along mixed migration routes worldwide. The project's data include the fatalities of migrants who die in transportation accidents, shipwrecks, violent attacks, or due to medical complications during their journeys to a country different from their country of residence, regardless of their legal status. The data also include the number of corpses found at border crossings that are categorized as the bodies of migrants, on the basis of belongings and/or the characteristics of the death. Information is gathered from diverse sources such as official records, assistance operations of IOM and other organizations in the Mediterranean, media reports, non-governmental organizations, and surveys and interviews of migrants. The count excludes deaths that occur in immigration detention facilities or after deportation to a migrant's homeland, as well as the deaths more loosely connected with migrants' irregular status, such as those resulting from labour exploitation. Migrants who die or go missing after they are established in a new home or refugee camp are also excluded from the data.

The indicators in the database feature information, if available, related to the age, gender, cause, location and estimated date of death, countries of birth and origin of the victim, information source, number of victims and number of survivors. In addition to presenting the latest statistics for each region of the world, the *IOM Fatal Journeys report* series investigates how these border-related deaths are documented, who is documenting

them, and what can be done to improve the evidence base to encourage informed accountability, better policy-making and improved practices. Four editions of this report were released (2014, 2016, 2018 and 2019) by the end of the review period.

## DATA GAP

Sizeable gaps remain in data related to human trafficking. There are various types of data that can be used to identify human trafficking, such as official records of arrests and prosecutions, victim support services, and surveys of victims, communities or experts, each with their own caveats in terms of data quality, representativeness and inference.

Regarding official data, the lack of systematic reporting from governments, which sometimes relates to inadequate capacities in case identification, law enforcement, prosecution, adjudication, or data collection and coordination, is one major cause of such data gaps. In some countries, human trafficking cases are only revealed from prosecuted cases, as seen in many national TIP Reports, implying a tendency to underreport the extent of human trafficking. In other cases, inadequate coordination across departments that deal with cases related to human trafficking leads to duplicated case reporting. The complex nature of human trafficking cases, which often is mixed with other offenses<sup>9</sup> such as prostitution and smuggling, also makes trafficking identification particularly challenging.

Given that the CTDC data is based on case-management data, and that not all IOM missions use MiMOSA for reporting cases (the database that feeds into CTDC), the identified victim populations are not necessarily exhaustive or representative of the total victim population and therefore cannot be interpreted as fully reflective of the trends over the past years. For example, from 2002 to 2014 and in 2019, less than three countries in the Asia-Pacific region were reported as country of citizenship among assisted victims. The uneven regional distribution of these cases plausibly relates to the differences in operational capacity to file case management reports through the system. Although a global or regional estimate of the prevalence of human trafficking is not readily available, the existing data have significantly contributed to enhancing the understanding of the profiles and underlying vulnerabilities of victims.

Finally, producing estimates of the prevalence of trafficking based on primary data collection of surveys has been historically very difficult for reasons such as complexity of legal definition of trafficking and sensitivity of the issue, which might be associated with underreporting.

<sup>9</sup> Farrell, A., Dank, M., Kafafian, M., Lockwood, S., Pfeffer, R., Hughes, A. and Vincent, K. (2019). Capturing Human Trafficking Victimization Through Crime Reporting. Retrieved on 19 January 2022. Available at: [www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/252520.pdf](http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/252520.pdf).

Data on migrant disappearances and deaths recorded by the IOM Missing Migrants Project are known to be relatively scarce in Asia and the Pacific region. Overall there are huge gaps about what is known about the individuals recorded and therefore, there is a high likelihood that their families do not know what has happened to them. As noted in the methodology section of the IOM Missing Migrant Project, data on migrant deaths and disappearances are also challenging to collect and thus are best seen as a minimum estimate for several reasons. First of all, the majority of migrant deaths occur in remote areas because of the irregular nature of migration, which makes discovery and/or systematic reporting of bodies difficult. Moreover, survivors often do not report deaths due to the involvement of criminal actors in the process of irregular migration. Another reason is lack of official sources that collect and publish data on migrant deaths, since consistent reporting by governments on the deaths of third-country nationals in transit or nationals while in transit abroad is scarce. While such information can be complemented by media sources, it is to be noted that coverage is usually incomplete and/or infrequent. As well, relying on media sources means data on missing migrants are likely to overrepresent areas with better media coverage,

such as Europe and the Mediterranean region, and underrepresent areas such as the Sahara Desert, where media coverage might be more limited, yet with large volumes of irregular migration and foreseeable dangers en route. Furthermore, the focus of Missing Migrants Project data on migrant deaths and disappearances in transit also indicate that other types of deaths and disappearances are yet to be covered by existing global or regional data. This focus also implies that, as the IOM Missing Migrant Project is used to monitor *SDG Indicator 10.7.3: Number of people who died or disappeared in the process of migration towards an international destination*, it does not entail all information required for monitoring *SDG Indicator 11.5.1 Number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population*.

Last but not least, the data gap in the broader thematic area of vulnerabilities remains large. Information on immigrant integration as well as specific vulnerabilities faced by migrant population subgroups at risk, such as children and youths, older persons and women, are not available at the regional level. More information on these subthemes is expected to be complemented by national data sources.

## RESOURCES

### Data sources

- IOM, 2020. *Missing Migrants Project*
- IOM, 2019. *Counter Trafficking Data Collaborative*

### Reports

- ILO, 2017. *Global Estimates of Modern Slavery: Forced Labour and Forced Marriage*
- IOM, 2014. *Fatal Journeys: Tracking Lives Lost during Migration*
- IOM, 2016. *Fatal Journeys Volume 2: Identification and tracing of dead and missing migrants*
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- IOM, 2018. *Collective Insights into Irregular Migration in Southeast Asia and South Asia - Emerging Trends of Travel Document and Identity Frauds*
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- UNODC, 2013. *Transnational Organized Crime in East Asia and the Pacific*
- UNODC, 2015. *Migrant Smuggling in Asia: Current Trends and Related Challenges*
- UNODC, 2018. *Migrant Smuggling in Asia and the Pacific: Current Trends and Challenges Volume II*

- US Department of State, 2020. *Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report 2020*

## 5.4 MIGRATION POLICY

### 5.4.1 Migration Governance

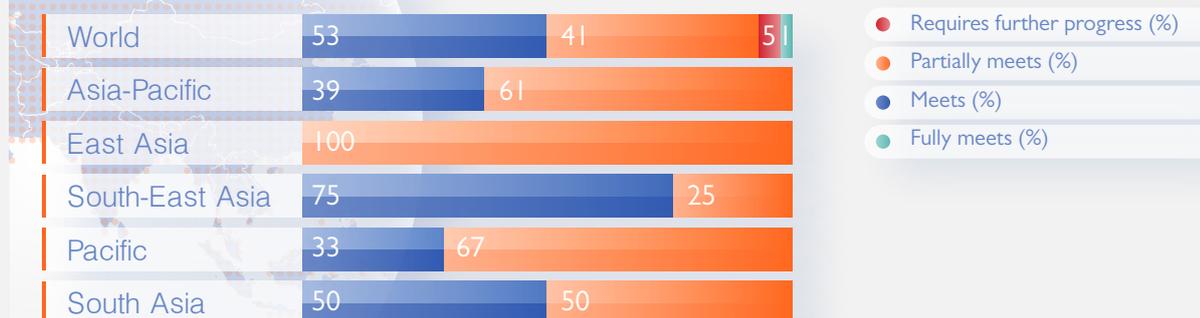
Among the 17 sustainable development goals (SDG) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, SDG target 10.7 is the target most explicitly and directly related to international migration, as it calls on countries to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people. One of the indicators under this target is *SDG indicator 10.7.2* – to monitor the *number of countries that have implemented migration policies to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people*.

To what extent are countries in the Asia and the Pacific progressing towards this goal? Figure 18 displays the percentage of governments worldwide, specifically in various subregions of Asia and the Pacific, that report policies that meet the criteria for SDG indicator 10.7.2

as of 2019. Globally, over half (53%) of the 111 governments that responded reported having such policies. In Asia and the Pacific, the proportions are lower than the global average, at 39 per cent. However, data were only available for nine countries in Asia and nine countries in the Pacific.

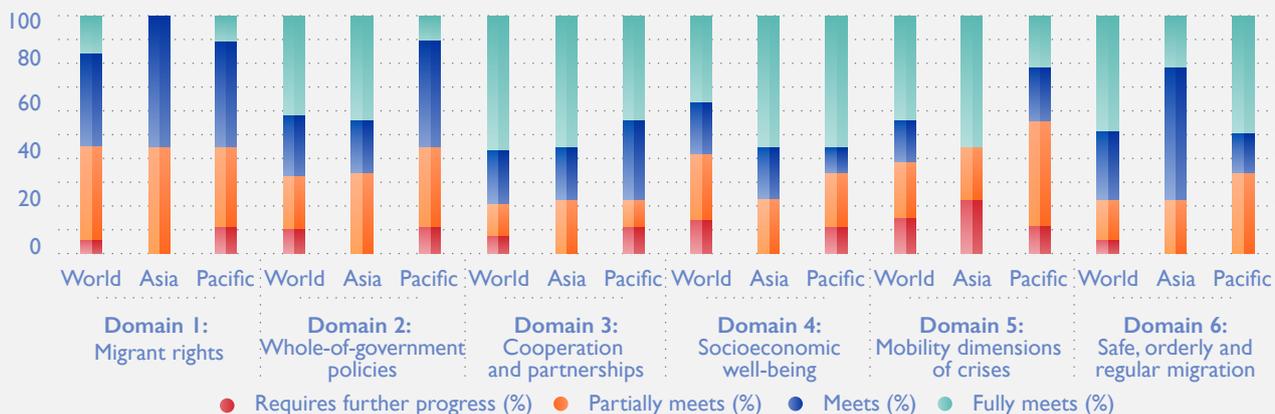
Figure 19 shows the disaggregation by six policy domains. Asian countries followed the global pattern by having the highest levels of adherence in the policy domains of “cooperation and partnerships” and “safe, orderly and regular migration”, in addition “socioeconomic well-being”, for which more than three quarters of governments reported fully meeting or meeting the criteria for *SDG indicator 10.7.2*. Countries in the Pacific had a similar level in the policy domain of “cooperation and partnerships”.

**Figure 18:**  
Percentage of governments in Asia and the Pacific reporting policies that meet the criteria for SDG indicator 10.7.2 in 2019.



Source: Compiled from UN DESA and IOM global and regional aggregate data on SDG indicator 10.7.2 (2019).

**Figure 19:**  
Average percentage of governments worldwide and in Asia and the Pacific reporting policies that meet the criteria for SDG indicator 10.7.2 in 2019.



Source: Compiled from UN DESA and IOM global and regional aggregate data on SDG indicator 10.7.2 (2019).

In terms of policy domains that require strengthening, the patterns in Asia and the Pacific did not entirely align with global ones. Worldwide, the policy domains with the lowest average percentage of governments reporting fully meeting or meeting the criteria were “migrant rights” (55%) and “socioeconomic well-being” (59%). Countries in Asia and the Pacific similarly had the lowest levels of fulfilment in terms of “migrant rights” (both 56%); another relatively weak area for Asian countries was “mobility dimensions in crises” (55%), and for countries in the Pacific “whole-of-government / evidence-based policies” (56%).

## DATA AVAILABILITY

### UN DESA AND IOM SDG INDICATOR 10.7.2 AND IOM MIGRATION GOVERNANCE INDICATORS

With regards to the *SDG Indicator 10.7.2. Number of Countries with Migration Policies to Facilitate Orderly, Safe,*

*Regular and Responsible Migration and Mobility of People*, the co-custodians UN DESA and IOM collected data on fulfilment of this indicator by national government entities worldwide. As of September 2019, such data were available for 111 countries, equivalent to 56 per cent of all countries globally. A series of products were published, including a dataset on *Global and Regional Aggregates* and another on *Country Data*, covering 31 countries in Asia and Oceania on the extent of fulfilment of *SDG Indicator 10.7.2* in six dimensions of the Migration Governance Framework: (i) migrant rights, (ii) whole-of-government approach, (ii) cooperation and partnerships, (iv) socioeconomic well-being of migrants, (v) mobility dimensions of crises, and (vi) safe, orderly and regular migration. A further disaggregation by 91 indicators (Figure 20) is available. These data were also presented and analysed in the *Data Booklet* as well as in the *World Migration Report 2019*. More information about national migration policies can be seen in National Migration Governance Profiles for 51 countries on IOM’s *Migration Governance Indicators* section on the *Migration Data Portal*.

**Figure 20:**  
Subcategories of policy domains to measure fulfilment of SDG Indicator 10.7.2.

Domain 1. Migrant Rights (Subcategories)	Domain 2. Whole-of-government/ Evidence-based policies (subcategories)	Domain 3. Cooperation and partnerships (subcategories)	Domain 4. Socioeconomic well-being (subcategories)	Domain 5. Mobility dimensions of crises (subcategories)	Domain 6. Safe, orderly and regular migration (subcategories)
Essential and/or emergency health care	A dedicated government agency to implement national migration policy	An interministerial coordination mechanism on migration	Align, through periodic assessments, labour migration policies with actual and projected labour market needs.	System for receiving, processing and indentifying those forced to flee across international borders	System to monitor visa overstays
Public education	A national policy or strategy for regular migration pathways, including labour migration	Bilateral agreements on migration, including labour migration	Facilitate the portability of social security benefits	Contingency planning for displaced populations in terms of basic needs such as food, sanitation, education and medical care	Pre-arrival authorization controls
Equal pay for equal work	A national policy or strategy to promote the inclusion or integration of immigrants	Regional agreements promoting mobility	Facilitate the recognition of skills and qualifications acquired abroad	Specific measures to provide assistance to citizens residing abroad in countries in crisis or post-crisis situations	Provisions for unaccompanied minors or separated children
Social security	Formal mechanisms to ensure that the migration policy is gender responsive	Agreements for cooperation with other countries on return and readmission	Facilitate or promote the flow of remittances	A national disaster risk reduction strategy with specific provisions for addressing the displacement impacts of disasters	Migration information and awareness-raising campaigns
Access to justice	A mechanism to ensure the migration policy is informed by data, appropriately disaggregated	Formal mechanisms to engage civil society and the private sector in the formulation and implementation of migration policy	Promote fair and ethical recruitment of migrant workers	Grant permission for temporary stay or temporary protection for those forcibly displaced across international borders and those unable to return	Formal Strategies to address trafficking in person and migrant smuggling

Source: UN DESA and IOM SDG indicator 10.7.2 Data Booklet.

## 5.4.2 MIGRANT RIGHTS

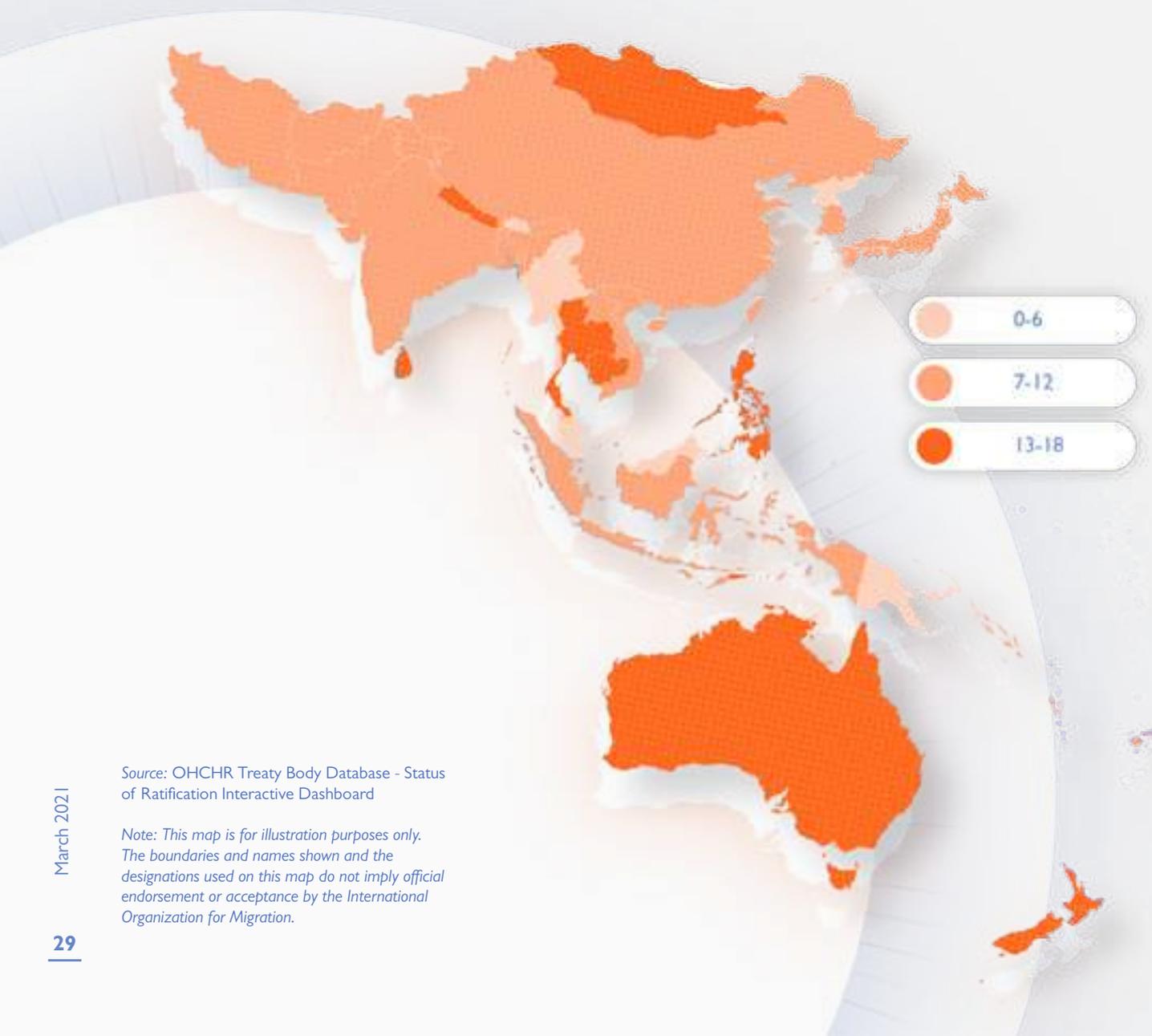
According to OHCHR, there are currently nine core international human rights treaties and conventions and nine other associated supplementary protocols dealing with specific concerns (the full list can be seen in Annex II). These international instruments, on one hand, grant rights to migrants by virtue of their humanity, and, on the other hand, relate to the achievement of *SDG 8.8.2: Level of national compliance of labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labour Organization (ILO) textual sources and national legislation, by sex and migrant status*. The implementation of the treaty provisions by States are monitored by the corresponding committee of experts.

Figures 21–24 show, with a focus on the Asia-Pacific region, the ratification status of all 18 key international

human rights instruments, specifically some of these instruments with explicit reference to migration, namely, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography.

Overall, the Asia-Pacific region has partial endorsement of the key international human rights instruments – no country in this region has ratified above 80 per cent of these instruments. Action is widely lacking in the region, particularly regarding the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.

**Figure 21:**  
Ratification of 18 International Human Rights Treaties

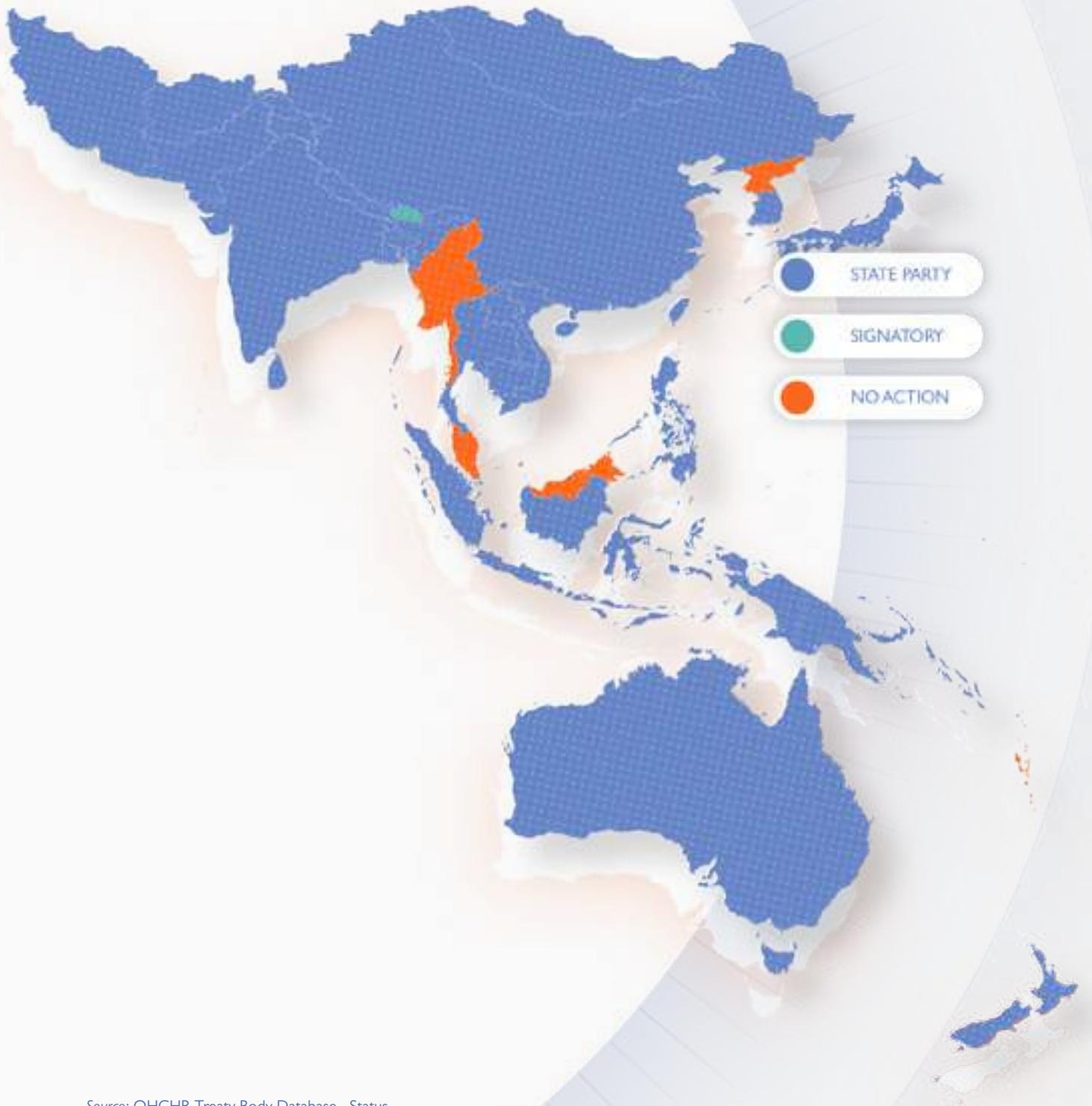


Source: OHCHR Treaty Body Database - Status of Ratification Interactive Dashboard

Note: This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.



**Figure 23:**  
Ratification of International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination



Source: OHCHR Treaty Body Database - Status of Ratification Interactive Dashboard

Note: This map is for illustration purposes only. The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the International Organization for Migration.



## DATA AVAILABILITY

While the ratification status of international treaties and conventions related to migrant rights can be found in the *OHCHR Treaty Body Database: Ratifications and Reservations, Treaties Database* on the *UNODC Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws On Crime (SHERLOC) Portal* and the *ILO Database of National Labour, Social Security and Related Human Rights Legislation (NATLEX)*, specific types of national legislations can also be searched for in the latter two. In addition to these databases, the *US Department of State Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report 2020*, which has already been described in Section 5.3.1, provides country ranking in counter-trafficking efforts through evaluating relevant national legislations and policy enforcement of each country.

### OHCHR TREATY BODY DATABASE: RATIFICATIONS AND RESERVATIONS

Under the section “*Ratifications and Reservations*”, the *Treaty Body Database* of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) regularly updates the ratification status of major international human rights treaties and conventions of all countries based on public documents adopted or received by the human rights treaty bodies. Such information has also been aggregated at the international, regional and subregional levels and visualized in an interactive map. The information is contained in a dataset on the ratification status of each country regarding each of these international instruments and can be retrieved via the *interactive dashboard*.

### UNODC SHARING ELECTRONIC RESOURCES AND LAWS ON CRIME (SHERLOC) PORTAL

The *Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws On Crime (SHERLOC)* knowledge management portal was developed by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to facilitate the dissemination of information regarding the implementation of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the three protocols that supplement it. Two of these protocols relate to IOM’s protection mandate: the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. Within the SHERLOC portal, four distinct datasets feature information related to Asia-Pacific countries:

- i. The *Bibliographic Database* is an annotated bibliography containing a synopsis of key articles

published between 1983 and 2018 and related to 15 different crime types, including migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons. This database is searchable by countries, research methods and keywords.

- ii. The *Case Law Database* contains jurisprudence on criminal cases related to several crimes, including migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons, between 1976 and 2020.
- iii. The *Legislation Database* is an electronic repository of laws searchable by country, UNTOC article and crime type. It aims to demonstrate how Member States define, prohibit and criminalize migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons (among other crimes) through their domestic legislative provisions.
- iv. The *Treaties Database* provides an overview of the ratification status and adherence to regional and international instruments, including treaties and conventions on migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons.

UNODC also published three reports related to migrant smuggling in Asia: a *Thematic Review* of relevant literature, covering 14 countries (Afghanistan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam) between 2004 and 2011; a 2013 analysis of *Transnational Organized Crime in East Asia and the Pacific*; and a two-part report on the *Trends and Challenges related to Migrant Smuggling in Asia and the Pacific*.

### ILO DATABASE OF NATIONAL LABOUR, SOCIAL SECURITY AND RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS LEGISLATION (NATLEX)

Maintained by ILO’s International Labour Standards Department, the *NATLEX Database* contains national laws on labour, social security and related human rights. It covers 196 countries and provides full texts or abstracts of legislation and citation information. Sub-topics by which national legislations and international laws are classified related to migration include migrant workers, domestic workers, elimination of forced labour, elimination of child labour, protection of children and young persons, equality of opportunity and treatment (non-discrimination), labour rights, occupational safety and health. As such, it also provides partial information for monitoring the *SDG Indicator 8.8.2: Level of national compliance of labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on ILO textual sources and national legislation, by sex and migrant status*.

## DATA GAP

With regards to the monitoring efforts of UN DESA and IOM on *SDG Indicator 10.7.2*, despite the breadth of measures fully disaggregated by policy domain and subtopic, data availability is to be expanded in the Asia-Pacific region. While the Treaties Database on the UNODC SHERLOC Portal compiles international and regional treaties and conventions on migrant smuggling and trafficking in persons, which complements the

OHCHR Treaty Body Database by including regional treaties and by focusing on specific areas of migrant rights, information on the ratification status of most countries under these treaties are not available. One common limitation of these legal databases, namely the OHCHR Treaty Body Database, UNODC SHERLOC Portal Treaties Database, and the ILO NATLEX Database, is that the policy enactment and enforcement outcomes are not directly indicated.

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### Data sources

- OHCHR, 2020. *Treaty Body Database: Ratifications and Reservations*
- OHCHR, 2014. *Human Rights Indicators. Interactive Map: Status of Ratification of Human Rights Treaties*
- UN DESA and IOM, 2019. *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*
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### Reports

- IOM, 2021. *Migration Governance Indicator: National Migration Governance Profiles*
- UN DESA and IOM, 2019. *SDG Indicator 10.7.2 Data Booklet*
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- UN DESA and IOM, 2019. *Profiles for SDG indicator 10.7.2*
- US Department of State, 2020. *Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report 2020*



## 5.5 MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

### 5.5.1 REMITTANCES

Accompanying a growing number of international labour migration is the expansion in the volume of remittances being received by and sent from the region, which are seen as an important tool for development. *SDG Target 10.c* calls for *reducing to less than 3 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5 per cent by 2030*, and *Global Compact for Migration Objective 20* calls for *promoting faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants*.

According to the World Bank (2020), the share of remittance inflows to Asia-Pacific countries was estimated

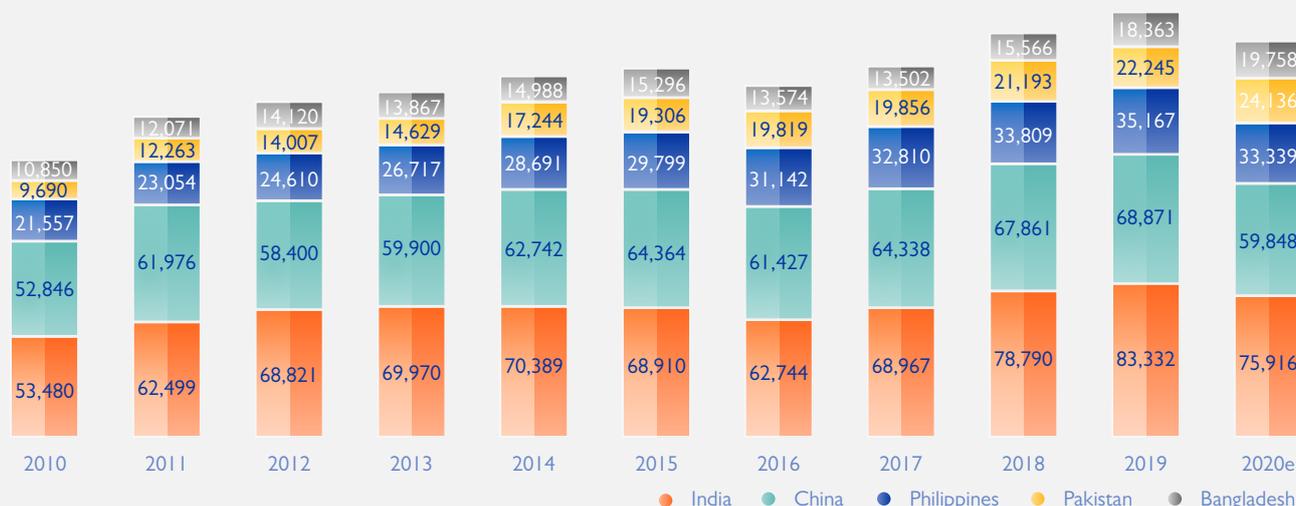
at 42 per cent of the global flows in 2020 (Figure 25). Against a general upward trend spanning across the past decade, the World Bank estimated there was a drop of 7 per cent from 2019 to 2020 worldwide as well as among inflows to the region, which is likely related to the latest update being made only as of October 2020, and on the foreseen impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Verification of the extent to which this drop has indeed materialized is pending, as preliminary IOM analysis<sup>9</sup> uncovers that remittances might be more resilient than expected. The top five recipients are India, China, The Philippines, Pakistan and Bangladesh (Figure 26), collectively accounting for over three quarters of the total inflow into the region and almost one third of remittance inflows worldwide.

**Figure 25:**  
Remittance flows, Asia-Pacific<sup>10</sup> and rest of the world (Jan 2010–Oct 2020)  
Migrant remittance flows (USD million)



Source: Compiled from World Bank Annual Remittances Data (2020)

**Figure 26:**  
Top 5 remittance inflow countries in Asia and the Pacific region (USD millions, Jan 2010–Oct 2020)



Source: Compiled from World Bank Annual Remittances Data (2020)

<sup>9</sup> IOM (2021). Impact of COVID-19 on Remittances in the Asia-Pacific Region (Forthcoming).

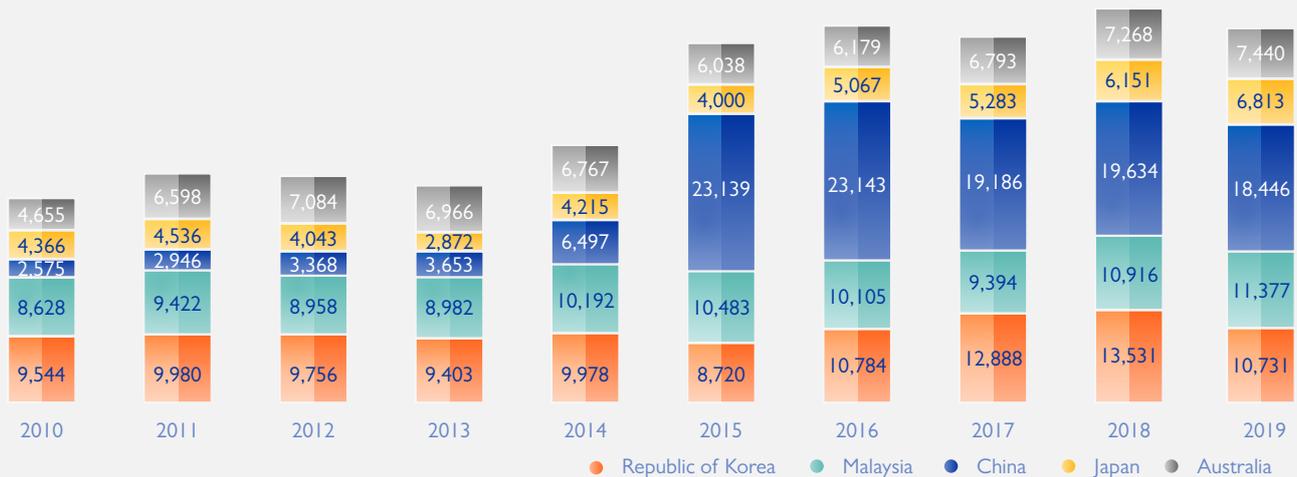
<sup>10</sup> Data unavailable for Brunei Darussalam, Cook Islands, Nauru and Singapore.

While the estimates for 2020 were not yet available, the share of remittance outflows from Asia-Pacific countries compared to the rest of the world also increased steadily. China, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Australia and Japan were the top five source countries of remittances in Asia

and the Pacific region in 2019 (Figure 27), which together accounted for more than two thirds of remittance outflows from the region and 11 per cent of remittance outflows worldwide.

**Figure 27:**

Top 5 remittance outflow countries in Asia and the Pacific region (USD millions, 2010–2019)



Source: Compiled from World Bank Annual Remittances Data (2020)

## DATA AVAILABILITY

### WORLD BANK REMITTANCE DATABASES

The World Bank is a custodian for remittances-related SDG Indicators, including *the volume of remittances as a percentage of gross domestic product (SDG indicator 17.3.2)*, *remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted (SDG indicator 10.c.1)* and *Recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of early income earned in country of destination (SDG indicator 10.7.1)*. Progress related to these indicators is assessed in the *Migration and Development Briefs* that the World Bank releases periodically.

The underlying data are captured in two key datasets that estimate remittances. First, the World Bank *Bilateral Remittance Matrix*, which tracks remittances between 214 countries for the years 2010 to 2017 with data available only for some country corridors. Second, the World Bank *Annual Remittances Database*. The latter provides information on remittance flows to and from 214 countries for the years 1970 to 2019. The remittance data are primarily tracked by the World Bank and distilled from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Balance of Payments statistics as well as from direct reports by

central banks. Such data were not reported from Brunei Darussalam, Cook Islands, Nauru and Singapore.

Both sets make use of income data from host countries and countries of origin. Where data are available, remittances are measured using the following items in the IMF's Balance of Payments Statistics Year Book: personal transfers, compensation of employees and migrants' transfers defined as capital transfers between resident and non-resident households. To note, for some countries, data are obtained directly from the respective country's central bank and other relevant official sources. Constructing the Bilateral Remittance Matrix involves allocating a country's total remittance inflows in a given year to the emigrant stocks estimated in the World Bank Bilateral Migration Matrix, adjusted for the sending and receiving countries' respective per capita income.

In addition, the *Remittance Prices Worldwide Database* of the World Bank provides the costs of sending and receiving remittances from one country to another. This database covers 367 country corridors, which include 48 remittance sending countries and 105 receiving countries. As of the review period, such data are generally available from 2011 to Q3 2020 but might vary across countries.

## 5.5.2 HEALTH

According to the Constitution of the World Health Organization, health is defined as a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being – not merely the absence of disease or disability. This definition applies to migrants as well as to non-migrants. The concept of migration and health encompasses the idea that there are various factors and conditions that influence the health of migrants. These factors and conditions are referred to as *social determinants of health*. Migration, among other factors, is considered a social determinant of health, for its potential to affect health. There are various levels of social determinants of health, ranging from the general socioeconomic, legal, cultural, environmental and physical environments to individual factors such as lifestyle, age, hereditary and behavioural factors that impact the health of migrants (Figure 2). There may be differences in the disease profiles and health risk factors between migrant and host populations, or inequalities in the access/uptake of preventive interventions and in treatment outcomes based on migration.

The relationship between migration and health is complex, and the impact of migration on health varies considerably across migrant groups, and from person to person within such groups. Conditions surrounding the migration process may exacerbate health vulnerabilities and risk behaviours such as in the case of a victim of sex trafficking through transnational networks. Conversely, migration can be an enabler for achieving better health trajectories, such as in the case of a newly arrived refugee as part of a humanitarian settlement programme, who can access treatment for a chronic disease. Due to the lack of legal status, stigma, discrimination, language, cultural barriers and low-income levels, irregular migrants may be excluded from accessing primary health-care services, vaccination campaigns and health-promotion interventions.

The concept of “migration health data” may be broadly defined as those data relevant to characterizing the health and social determinants of migrant populations, and to population mobility and health. These data may include: quantitative data, such as epidemiological profiles on health status and disease burden, or qualitative data that describe risk and resiliency factors, or mapping health service access.

The majority of health systems within Asia and the Pacific do not disaggregate health data by migration status, and thus there is very limited comparable data available at regional level that is consistently collected, collated and updated. Most of the information, data and research on migration health comes from specific research papers, studies, publications and reports.

## DATA AVAILABILITY

### IOM – MIGRATION HEALTH RESEARCH PORTAL

IOM's *Migration Health Research Portal* serves as a platform for connecting research experts and scholars, learning about migration health research initiatives globally, and improving evidence-based policy and practice. The portal includes a searchable publications portal that contains a repository of all IOM migration health publications from 2006 to present where IOM was a primary contributor. Publications include peer-reviewed scientific papers, technical reports, training guides or manuals, policy briefs or discussion papers, factsheets, newsletters, research reviews, conference and poster presentations. It also hosts Migration Health Evidence Portal for COVID-19 with publications specifically focused on COVID-19 and its intersection with migration health.

For Asia and the Pacific region, 137 publications are available and catalogued covering a diverse range of topics including labour migration and health studies, infectious diseases, health assessments, mental health, sexual and reproductive health, health services and policies and nutritional status, among others. An overview can be seen in Table 2.

### UNAIDS / UNICEF / WHO / ADB HIV AND AIDS DATA HUB FOR ASIA-PACIFIC

First introduced in 2008, the *HIV and AIDS Data Hub for Asia-Pacific* is jointly implemented by UNAIDS, the United Nations Children's Fund and the Asia Development Bank, with the World Health Organization (WHO) as the technical partner. The regional database contains information gathered from published literature, national HIV web sites and a network of country and regional partners. While the online data dashboard contains a variety of products such as map, data sheet, graph, fact sheet and research, migrant-related information is available only for a few countries. For example, HIV prevalence among migrant workers and their partners can be accessed in an *older version* of the database for Thailand (up to 2012), India (up to 2011), Nepal (up to 2010), Bhutan (up to 2006), Malaysia (up to 2004) and Viet Nam (2000), and HIV prevention knowledge among migrants in Lao People's Democratic Republic in 2000–2001. By providing disaggregation by migration status, such information helps track progress towards the migration-related *SDG Indicator 3.3.1: Number of new HIV infections per 1,000 uninfected population*.

**Table 2:**  
Number of publications per topic, involving countries from Asia  
and the Pacific available on IOM's Migration Health Research Portal

Topic	Number of publications
Labour migration and health	44
Infectious diseases	35
Health assessment/medical examination	30
Health policy	26
Public health	24
Tuberculosis	20
HIV/AIDS	19
Mental health	19
Refugee health	18
Sexual and reproductive health	18
Health services	15
Malaria	15
Health risks	14
Health systems research	14
Migrants assistance	12
Return migration	12
Disease prevention	11
Health promotion / Health education	10
Risk behaviour	10
Human resources for health	9
Irregular migration	9
Nutritional	9

## WHO HEALTH OF REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS: REGIONAL SITUATION ANALYSIS, PRACTICES, EXPERIENCES, LESSONS LEARNED AND WAYS FORWARD

In response to the World Health Assembly resolution 70.15 on “Promoting the health of refugees and migrants”, WHO conducted a situation analysis and identified best practices, experiences and lessons learned in order to contribute to the development of a global action plan for the Seventy-second World Health Assembly in 2019. Based on contributions on evidence-based information, best practices, experiences and lessons learned in addressing the health needs of refugees and migrants covering 82 countries, a series of regional reports were released, entailing valuable information on the current situation of refugees and migrants, health challenges associated with migration and forced displacement, past and ongoing practices and interventions in promoting the health of refugees and migrants, legal frameworks in place for addressing the health needs of this population, lessons learned and policy recommendations. For Asia and the Pacific region, regional reports exist for the *Eastern Mediterranean Region* (covering Afghanistan, Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran), *South-East Asia Region* and Western Pacific Region according to WHO’s definition of regions.

## DATA GAP

The World Bank estimates of remittances based on the balance of payment framework rely on central bank reporting and in some cases IMF reporting, which means that data are missing for countries that do not disclose such information to the World Bank. In view of this, the World Bank has been trying to address this challenge by working with other donors, and in many cases, conducting household surveys to ascertain more targeted data sets.

Furthermore, the definition of the two standard components of the balance of payment framework, namely, compensation of employees and personal transfers, carries implications with regards to the accuracy of these estimates. First of all, compensation of employees related to remittances is defined by the IMF as “the income of border, seasonal, and other short-term workers who are employed in an economy where they are not resident and of residents employed by non-resident entities.”<sup>11</sup> This means that the salaries paid by employers

such as international organizations, embassies, consular networks or non-resident companies are recorded as remittances, which could lead to an overestimation of the volume of remittances in countries with a large presence of such entities, although the precise magnitude of such bias is unknown.<sup>12</sup> As for personal transfers, which are defined by the IMF as “all current transfers in cash or in kind made or received by resident households to or from non-resident households” and thus “include all current transfers between resident and non-resident individuals,” a risk of overestimation also exists as remittances are defined not according to migratory status but residence of the senders and receivers.<sup>11</sup>

Another caveat is that remittance figures reported by the World Bank sometimes differ from those reported by the central banks, mostly because of differences in the definition of remittances. Sometimes there are also differences between total inflows and total outflows, even within the same information source, because inflows are easier to monitor than outflows and some countries do not report the compensation of employees and personal transfers to the IMF.

In addition, remittances data reported by the World Bank do not cover small transactions sent via channels other than banks, such as money transfer operators, post offices and mobile transfer companies or remittances sent through informal channels. In the context of the Asia-Pacific region, informal remittances are known to be substantial, especially in countries where the banking infrastructure, financial inclusion<sup>13</sup> and/or trust in the banking system are/is weak and/or costs associated with using formal channels are high.<sup>14</sup> Informal remittances, in-kind remittances and the impacts of remittances on development, such as growth, development of rural areas, and reduction of poverty and inequality, are to be better understood with national data.

The Remittance Prices Worldwide Database provides information on remittance costs for some country corridors but not all countries and all country corridors are covered. Countries not covered as sending or receiving countries include: Brunei Darussalam, Bhutan, Cook Islands, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Federated States of Micronesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Nauru, Palau, and Timor-Leste. For each receiving country, only a limited number of country corridors are available. This limitation

<sup>11</sup> IMF (2009). Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, Sixth Edition (BPM6). IMF, Washington, D.C.

<sup>12</sup> Alvarez, S.P., Briod, P. Ferrari, O. and Rieder, U. (2015). Remittances: How reliable are the data? Migration Policy Practice V(2): 42-46.

<sup>13</sup> ADB (2012). Worker Migration and Remittances in South Asia. South Asia Working Papers WPS124630.

<sup>14</sup> IOM (2014). Afghanistan Remittance Overview and Trends. Annex to Afghanistan Migration Profile.

in coverage relates to the data collection methodology of mystery shopping, as researchers present themselves as customers to the transaction service providers, based on which the global and corridor-specific estimates are derived.<sup>15</sup> Another regional data limitation with regards to monitoring remittance-related SDG progress is that, while remittance costs and aggregate volumes of remittances are provided by World Bank databases, precise statistics on remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted (*SDG 10.c.1*) are not available, as these statistics might rely on statistics from national central banks.

With regards to migration and health, no singular metric can be used as an aggregate measure of the health of migrants. A regional or global health indicator framework for measuring and monitoring the health of migrants does not exist and specific guidance on what data to collect and

how and when to collect have not been developed. The need to enhance health information systems and enable rigorous methodologies and capacities for collection of data on migration health across all migrant groups at the national level remain a challenge for both developing and developed nations.

On the HIV and AIDS Data Hub for Asia-Pacific, data disaggregated by migrant status have not been updated in recent years, and therefore are to be retrieved from national ministries. In general, deficiencies exist in regional and international data in the broader area of migration and health. As echoed in the *IOM World Migration Report 2020*, migration and health data in the literature are concentrated in the context of high-income receiving countries such as Europe and North America, and on specific health conditions such as HIV.

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<sup>15</sup> World Bank (2015). *Remittance Prices Worldwide: Methodology*.

## RESOURCES

### Data sources

- IOM, 2020. *Migration Health Research Portal*
- World Bank, 2020. *Annual Remittances*
- World Bank, 2020. *Remittance Prices Worldwide*
- World Bank, 2017. *Bilateral Remittance Matrices*
- UNAIDS, UNICEF, WHO and ADB, 2020. *HIV and AIDS Data Hub for Asia-Pacific*
- World Bank, 2019. *Migration and Development Brief*
- WHO, 2018. *WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region – Health of Refugees and Migrants: Situation Analysis and Practices in Addressing the Health Needs of Refugees and Migrants: Examples of Public Health Interventions and Practices*

### Reports

- ADB, 2020. *COVID-19 Impact on International Migration, Remittances, and Recipient Households in Developing Asia*
- ADB, ILO and OECD, 2018. *Labour Migration in Asia: Increasing the Development Impact of Migration through Finance and Technology*
- IOM, 2020. *World Migration Report 2020*
- World Bank, 2016. *Migration and Remittances Factbook*
- WHO, 2018. *WHO Southeast Asia Region – Health of Refugees and Migrants: Situation Analysis, Practices, Experiences, Lessons Learned and Ways Forward*
- WHO, 2018. *WHO Western Pacific Region – Health of Refugees and Migrants: Situation Analysis, Practices, Experiences, Lessons Learned and Ways Forward*
- CARAM Asia, 2018. *A Review of HIV Policy Progression and Migrants' Health Rights in Five Origin Countries*

# CONCLUSION

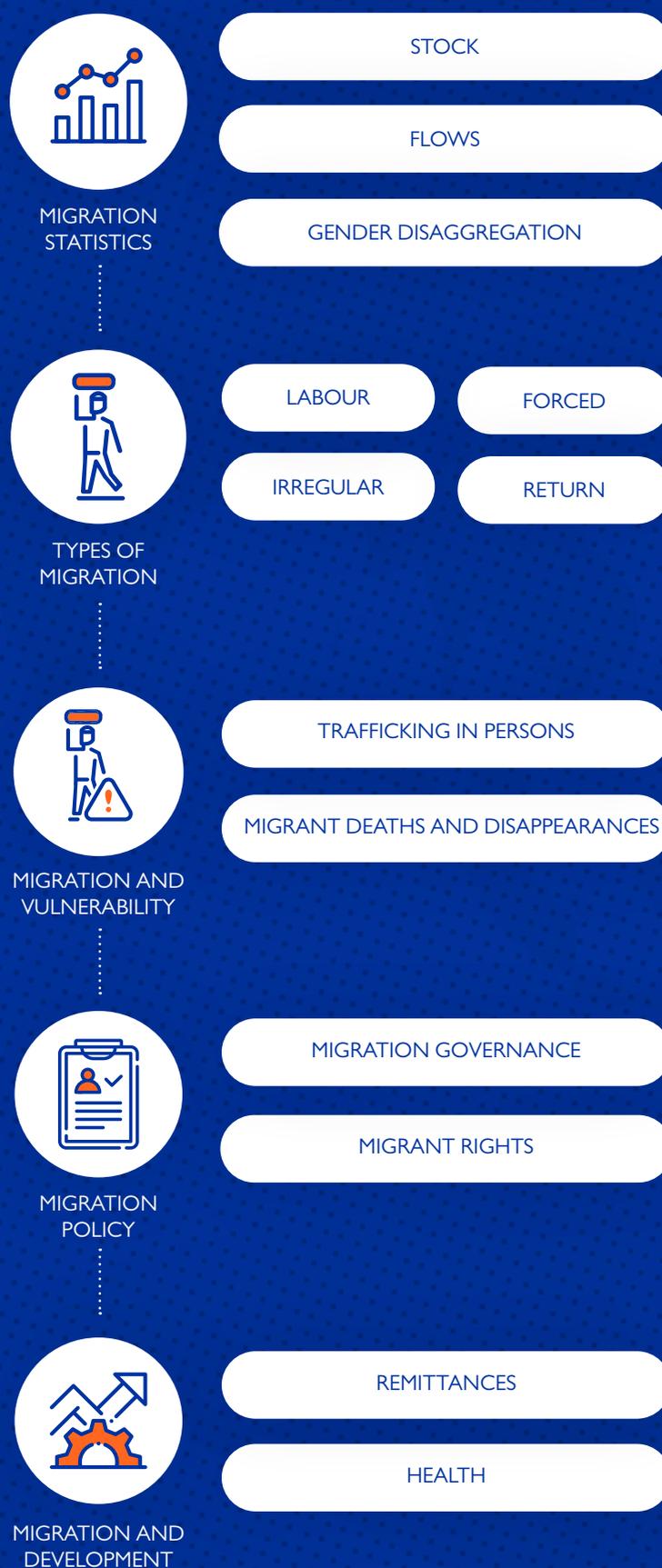
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06

Guided by the criteria and priorities outlined in the beginning of Section 5, this review has presented the availability and limitations of existing data at the regional level in multiple migration themes and sub-themes (Figure 28). While these existing data from IOM, UN agencies, international organizations and other stakeholders have provided important insights into migration trends, characteristics and development in the Asia-Pacific region, challenges remain in terms of data availability, accessibility, comprehensiveness, quality and comparability. When it comes to primary data collection, data harmonization across countries and representativeness of the sample populations are to be stepped up. As for secondary data compilation, these challenges come down mainly to the quality of national statistics, for which international coordination and standardization in data collection methodology is needed.

In terms of thematic coverage, data gaps largely concern the following areas (Figure 29): other types of migration, vulnerabilities related to migration encountered by specific population groups and during emergencies, such as forced displacement and the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as urbanization and health and trade as key areas of migration and development. Existing data in the areas of trafficking in persons, irregular migration, return migration and non-permanent forms of labour migration also need to be strengthened. As to SDG Indicators with explicit reference to migration, existing regional data do not cover *SDG Indicator 8.8.1: Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status*, and, as mentioned in previous sections, only partially cover *SDG 10.c.1: Remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted*, *SDG 10.7.1: Recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of early income earned in country of destination*, and *SDG 16.2.2: Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation*. Depending on the contextual relevance of these topics, which is expected to vary across countries, some of these data gaps might be addressed by the availability of data at the national level.

**Figure 28:**  
Thematic areas covered by existing data sources at the regional level



**Figure 29:**  
Areas of thematic coverage to be strengthened at the regional level



# ANNEX I

**Table 3:**  
SDG indicators with explicit reference to migration

SDG indicators in relation to types of migration	
SDG 3.c.1	Health worker density and distribution
SDG 4.b.1	Volume of official development assistance flows for scholarships by sector and type of study
SDG 8.8.1	Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status
SDG 8.8.2	Level of national compliance of labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labour Organization (ILO) textual sources and national legislation, by sex and migrant status
SDG 10.c.1	Remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted
SDG 10.7.1	Recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of early income earned in country of destination
SDG 17.3.2	Volume of remittances in GDP
SDG indicators in relation to migration and vulnerabilities	
SDG 11.5.1	Number of deaths, missing and persons affected by disaster
SDG 16.2.2	Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation
SDG indicators in relation to migration policy	
SDG 8.8.2	Level of national compliance of labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labour Organization (ILO) textual sources and national legislation, by sex and migrant status
SDG 10.7.2	Number of countries with migration policies that facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people
SDG 17.18.1	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.

For more information refer to the thematic page of the Migration Data Portal

# ANNEX II

**Table 4:**  
Global Compact for Migration objectives

Global Compact for Migration objectives	
1	Collect and utilize accurate and disaggregated data as a basis for evidence-based policies
2	Minimize the adverse drivers and structural factors that compel people to leave their country of origin
3	Provide accurate and timely information at all stages of migration
4	Ensure that all migrants have proof of legal identity and adequate documentation
5	Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration
6	Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and safeguard conditions that ensure decent work
7	Address and reduce vulnerabilities in migration
8	Save lives and establish coordinated international efforts on missing migrants
9	Strengthen the transnational response to smuggling of migrants
10	Prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration
11	Manage borders in an integrated, secure and coordinated manner
12	Strengthen certainty and predictability in migration procedures for appropriate screening, assessment and referral
13	Use migration detention only as a measure of last resort and work towards alternatives
14	Enhance consular protection, assistance and cooperation throughout the migration cycle
15	Provide access to basic services for migrants
16	Empower migrants and societies to realize full inclusion and social cohesion
17	Eliminate all forms of discrimination and promote evidence-based public discourse to shape perceptions of migration
18	Invest in skills development and facilitate mutual recognition of skills, qualifications and competences
19	Create conditions for migrants and diasporas to fully contribute to sustainable development in all countries
20	Promote faster, safer and cheaper transfer of remittances and foster financial inclusion of migrants
21	Cooperate in facilitating safe and dignified return and readmission, as well as sustainable reintegration
22	Establish mechanisms for the portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits
23	Strengthen international cooperation and global partnerships for safe, orderly and regular migration

Source: The 23 objectives can be found in paragraph 16 of the Global Compact for Migration

# ANNEX III

Table 5:  
Core international human rights instruments

General international human rights instruments covered in OHCHR Database	Year
International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	1965
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	1966
International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	1966
Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women	1979
Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	1984
Convention on the Rights of the Child	1989
International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families	1990
International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance	2006
Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	2006
Optional Protocol to the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	2008
Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	1966
Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty	1989
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women	1999
Optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict	2000
Optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography	2000
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure	2011
Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment	2002
Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	2006

Source: OHCHR Dashboard.



Children along with their parents are the sole family living on the island of Huene.  
Papua New Guinea | © IOM 2016/Muse MOHAMMED



IOM Asia-Pacific Regional Data Hub

# REGIONAL SECONDARY DATA REVIEW