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**WATCH YOUR STEP**

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Cover photo: Ehsanuddin Dilawar holds his seven-year-old son Kayhan Dilawar's hand as they disembark from a plane with fifteen-year-old Ali Aqdas Dilawar, as Afghan refugees arrive on a flight from Tajikistan at Toronto's Pearson International Airport, on Wednesday, 30 March 2022. © IOM 2022/Chris YOUNG

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# 1 REPORT OVERVIEW: MIGRATION CONTINUES TO BE PART OF THE SOLUTION IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD, BUT KEY CHALLENGES REMAIN<sup>1</sup>

## Introduction

It has been more than two years since the release of the *World Migration Report 2022*, which provided an overview of the global transformations intensely affecting migration and displacement around the world. While acknowledging ongoing changes related to demographic transitions, as well as economic and social transformations, the 2022 report outlined the major geopolitical, environmental and technological transformations that shape migration and mobility, sometimes profoundly. The impacts of these systemic global shifts have only intensified further in the last two-year period. For example, hardening geopolitics has seen us witness previously unthinkable conflict in terms of both scale and nature. The full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation in early 2022 signalled a pivotal shift for the world, with some arguing that it “marked an abrupt end to 30 years of globalization and all the international cooperation that made that possible”.<sup>2</sup> The immediate impacts on Ukraine and Europe continue to be felt by millions of people, while the global impacts have touched many times more, as the consequences of the war ripple through global food security, energy security, international law, multilateralism, military strategy and alliances.<sup>3</sup>

More recently, and notwithstanding devastating conflicts in many places around the world in the last two years (such as in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen), the Hamas attack on 7 October and the conflict in Gaza have been profoundly shocking for even the most seasoned analysts, as well as long-serving humanitarians.<sup>4</sup> The regional and global consequences are potentially severe, highlighting how geopolitics are changing quickly and in dangerous ways.<sup>5</sup> At the time of writing (November 2023), the deaths and displacements were already very high, and the humanitarian response intensely difficult and complex.<sup>6</sup>

It is also fair to say that the intensification of ecologically negative human activity raised in the previous *World Migration Report* (2022 edition) has only further intensified: overconsumption and overproduction linked to unsustainable economic growth, resource depletion and biodiversity collapse, as well as ongoing climate change (including global heating) are continuing to grip the world. We are more aware than ever before of the extremely negative consequences of human activities that are not preserving the planet’s ecological systems. The potential consequences for human migration and mobility are high in terms of global consciousness as climate records

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<sup>1</sup> Marie McAuliffe, Head, Migration Research and Publications Division, IOM; Linda Adhiambo Oucho, Executive Director, African Migration and Development Policy Centre.

<sup>2</sup> Maddox, 2023.

<sup>3</sup> Coles et al., 2023.

<sup>4</sup> IASC, 2023; Wright, 2023.

<sup>5</sup> Khoury, 2023; Wright, 2023.

<sup>6</sup> IASC, 2023; UNRWA, 2023.



continue to be broken,<sup>7</sup> while the specific future impacts and scenarios continue to be contested, discussed and debated.<sup>8</sup> Nevertheless, there is a strong sense that major impacts will occur without adequate preventative actions related to carbon emissions and green technology uptake, as well as more granular preparedness actions, such as disaster risk reduction work underpinned by adequate climate finance.<sup>9</sup> Recent positive developments in multilateral processes on climate change, however, provide for some optimism on cooperation going forward. As do new multilateral mobility frameworks agreed by States (such as the Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility).

In the previous edition we presented a chapter analysing the use of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies in migration systems, while also pointing to the ongoing impacts of technological change across wide areas of social, political and economic life globally. Since then, we have witnessed major advances in AI, especially generative AI tools that have burst on to the world stage, impacting a wide range of sectors and occupations, with calls from some to embrace such tools,<sup>10</sup> while others (most notably the creators of the latest generative AI tools) caution against the increasing proliferation of AI technologies throughout our societies.<sup>11</sup>

The highly uneven, sustained use of AI in only some migration systems points to the heightened risk that AI technologies in migration and mobility systems are on track to exacerbate digital divides, both between States and within States.<sup>12</sup> A prerequisite to AI uptake is ICT digital capability, particularly the digital data capture of processes and applicants' identity data. These actions require access to ICT infrastructure and electricity, as well as skilled ICT staff, while many countries around the world lack these critical necessities, most especially least developed countries (LDCs).<sup>13</sup> This is yet another domain in which differential capacity and resources widen the gap between States, adding to the digital divide and structural disadvantage experienced by LDCs in migration management. The "asymmetry of power" in AI for migration globally is an ongoing problem, likely to be exacerbated with every new advance.<sup>14</sup>

However, it is not just inequality between States that will impact migrants. The move toward greater digitalization of migration management and increased use of AI, including for visa services, border processing and identity management, will increasingly require potential migrants to be able to engage with authorities via digital channels. This poses obstacles for many people around the world who do not have access to ICT.<sup>15</sup> Supporting access to safe, orderly and regular migration requires that digital equality is actively supported.

It is within this context that this *World Migration Report* focuses on developments in migration over the last two-year period, with an emphasis on providing analysis that takes into account historical and contemporary factors – historical in recognition that migration and displacement occur within broader long-term social, security, political and economic contexts.

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<sup>7</sup> Such as the worst wildfire season (Canada), the hottest summer on record (global), driest September on record (Australia).

<sup>8</sup> United Nations, 2023; WEF, 2022.

<sup>9</sup> Birkmann et al., 2022.

<sup>10</sup> Carr, 2023; Doubleday, 2023.

<sup>11</sup> Vincent, 2023.

<sup>12</sup> McAuliffe, 2023.

<sup>13</sup> Adhikari and Tesfachew, 2022.

<sup>14</sup> Beduschi and McAuliffe, 2021.

<sup>15</sup> ITU, 2020; McAuliffe, 2023.

## What has happened in migration?

A great deal has happened in migration in the last two years since the release of the last *World Migration Report* in late 2021.

The last two years saw major migration and displacement events that have caused great hardship and trauma, as well as loss of life. In addition to the conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza, as mentioned above, millions of people have been displaced due to conflict, such as within and/or from the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Sudan, Ethiopia and Myanmar. There have also been large-scale displacements triggered by climate- and weather-related disasters in many parts of the world in 2022 and 2023, including in Pakistan, the Philippines, China, India, Bangladesh, Brazil and Colombia.<sup>16</sup> Further, in February 2023, south-east Türkiye and northern Syrian Arab Republic experienced powerful earthquakes, resulting in more than 50,000 deaths.<sup>17</sup> By March, an estimated 2.7 million people had been displaced in Türkiye and many had been left homeless in the Syrian Arab Republic.<sup>18</sup>

We have also witnessed the intensification of migration as a political tool in democratic systems around the world, notably in Europe, with some national election outcomes turning on the issues of anti-immigration and increasing cost of living.<sup>19</sup> A rise in anti-immigrant sentiment has also been seen in other parts of the world experiencing worsening economic conditions, such as North and Southern Africa, South-East Asia and the Middle East.<sup>20</sup>

Notwithstanding recent events, long-term data on international migration have taught us that migration is not uniform across the world, but is shaped by economic, geographic, demographic and other factors, resulting in distinct migration patterns, such as migration “corridors” being developed over many years (see Chapter 2 of this report for details). The largest corridors tend to be from developing countries to larger economies, such as those of the United States of America, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Germany; large corridors can also reflect protracted conflict and related displacement, such as from the Syrian Arab Republic to Türkiye (the second-largest corridor in the world).

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<sup>16</sup> IDMC, 2023.

<sup>17</sup> IOM, 2023.


<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

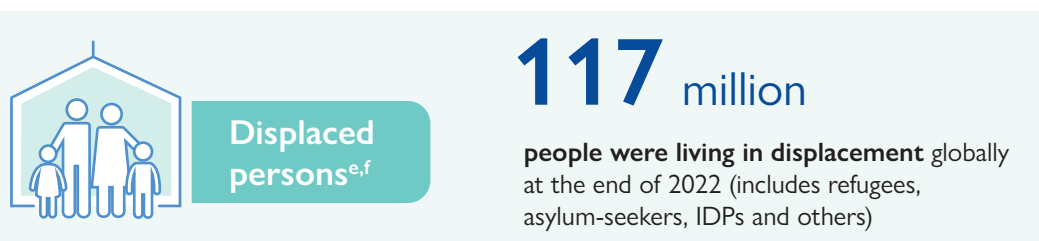
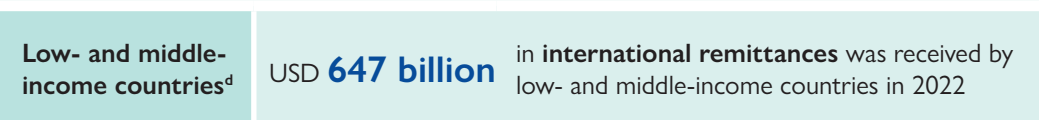
<sup>19</sup> Gosling, 2023.

<sup>20</sup> Allison, 2023; Fahim, 2022; Jalli, 2023; Moderan, 2023.

# Key migration data at a glance

(latest available)

 <b>International migrants<sup>a</sup></b>		<b>281 million</b> <b>international migrants</b> globally in 2020, or 3.6 per cent of the world's population
<b>Females<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>135 million</b>	<b>international female migrants</b> globally in 2020, or 3.5 per cent of the world's female population
<b>Males<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>146 million</b>	<b>international male migrants</b> globally in 2020, or 3.7 per cent of the world's male population
<b>Children<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>28 million</b>	<b>international child migrants</b> globally in 2020, or 1.4 per cent of the world's child population
<b>Labour migrants<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>169 million</b>	<b>migrant workers</b> globally in 2019
<b>Missing migrants<sup>c</sup></b>	Around <b>8,500</b>	<b>dead and missing</b> globally in 2023



<b>Refugees<sup>e</sup></b>	<b>35.3 million</b>	<b>refugees</b> globally in 2022
<b>Asylum-seekers<sup>e</sup></b>	<b>5.4 million</b>	<b>asylum-seekers</b> globally in 2022
<b>Others in need of international protection<sup>e</sup></b>	<b>5.2 million</b>	<b>others displaced</b> globally in 2022, mainly Venezuelans (not including those who were refugees or asylum-seekers)
<b>Internally displaced persons (IDPs)<sup>f</sup></b>	<b>71.2 million</b>	<b>IDPs globally in 2022:</b> 61.5 million due to conflict and violence; 8.7 million due to disasters

Note: See Chapter 2 for elaboration and discussion.

Sources: <sup>a</sup> UN DESA, 2021.

<sup>b</sup> ILO, 2021.

<sup>c</sup> IOM, n.d.

<sup>d</sup> Ratha et al., 2023.

<sup>e</sup> UNHCR, 2023.

<sup>f</sup> IDMC, 2023.

## Migration continues to be part of the solution for many economies, societies and families around the world

Despite the toxicity of some political narratives that rely on hate and division, migration has long served many millions of people around the world well – whether in origin, in transit or in destination countries – providing opportunities and enriching their lives. However, barely a day goes by without multiple media reports – whether in traditional or newer forms of media – focusing on negative aspects of migration. While this may reflect the changing nature of migration in some parts of the world, it is important to recognize that media reporting continues to place greater emphasis on “bad” news.<sup>21</sup> In addition, disinformation tactics are increasingly being used by nefarious actors with negative impacts on public, political and social media discourse on migration.<sup>22</sup> “Normalizing” the migration narrative is a critical factor in being able to realize the benefits of migration.

In the face of negatively skewed discussions, it can be easy to lose sight of the fact that international migration remains relatively uncommon, with a mere 3.6 per cent (or 281 million) of the world being international migrants (see discussion in Chapter 2 of this report). The vast majority of people do not move across borders to live. We also know that most international migration is safe, orderly and regular.<sup>23</sup>

Long-term research and analysis also tells us unequivocally that migration is a driver of human development and can generate significant benefits for migrants, their families and countries of origin. The wages that migrants earn abroad can be many multiples of what they could earn doing similar jobs at home. International remittances have grown from an estimated USD 128 billion in 2000 to USD 831 billion in 2022 and now far outstrip official development assistance to developing countries and foreign direct investment (see discussion of remittances in Chapter 2 of this report).

Migration can also provide an important skills boost, which can be critically important for destination countries experiencing population declines. In addition to enhancing national income and average living standards, immigration can have a positive effect on the labour market by increasing labour supply in sectors and occupations suffering from shortages of workers, as well as helping address mismatches in the job market. These positive labour market effects are not just evident in high-skilled sectors, but can also occur in lower-skilled occupations. Immigration increases both the supply of and the demand for labour, which means that labour immigration (including of lower-skilled workers) can generate additional employment opportunities for existing workers.

Research also shows that migrants provide a source of dynamism globally and are overrepresented in innovation and patents, arts and sciences awards, start-ups and successful companies. The immigration of young workers can also help with easing pressures on the pension systems of high-income countries with rapidly ageing populations. Immigration can also have adverse labour market effects (e.g. on wages and employment of nationals), but most of the research literature finds that these negative impacts tend to be quite small, at least on average.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> Allen et al., 2017; McAuliffe and Ruhs, 2017.

<sup>22</sup> Culloty et al., 2021.

<sup>23</sup> McAuliffe, 2020; Pope, 2024.

<sup>24</sup> Goldin et al., 2018; Ruhs, 2013.



Regular migration pathways boost public confidence in migration systems, while also protecting migrants. International migration and mobility occurring within regional and global economic, social, political and security environments increasingly reflect migration policy settings. Where, how, when and with whom people migrate often depends on the options available to them, with many of these options being determined or shaped by national-level policies as well as regional integration. Analysis of 25 years of international migrant stock data clearly shows that the regular pathways for migrants from developing countries have narrowed considerably, while pathways for those from developed countries have expanded (see Chapter 4 of this report). For increasing numbers of people around the world, therefore, irregular migration – including use of the asylum pathway – is the only option available to them.<sup>25</sup>

Humanitarian crises due to displacement remain the exception, but they are also on the rise. Forced displacement is the highest on record in the modern era (see Table 1 below). The situation is further exacerbated by environmental impacts and climate change, which some scientists are predicting will force more than 216 million people across six continents to be on the move within their countries by 2050.<sup>26</sup>

Meanwhile, humanitarian needs are outpacing funding support. As humanitarian needs rise and domestic fiscal pressures grow, many donor countries are under pressure to reduce their development budgets, placing development support to least developed countries at risk.<sup>27</sup> Meanwhile, the risk of further conflict has not been higher in decades, as military spending reached a new record high of USD 2,240 billion in 2022, reflecting an ongoing reduction in peace globally, as well as rising geopolitical tensions.<sup>28</sup> Humanitarian response will remain, for the foreseeable future, a major undertaking in order to support some of the most vulnerable people in the world. IOM will continue to be a major humanitarian actor in response to crises, including as a full member of the United Nations' Inter-Agency Standing Committee on humanitarian action.<sup>29</sup>

## The *World Migration Report* series

The first *World Migration Report* was published 24 years ago, initially as a one-off report designed to increase the understanding of migration by policymakers and the general public. It was conceived at a time when the effects of globalization were being felt in many parts of the world and in a multitude of ways. Indeed, the first report states that part of its genesis was due to the effects of globalization on migration patterns, and that the report therefore “looks at the increasingly global economy which has led to an unprecedented influx of newcomers in many countries...”.<sup>30</sup> The report highlighted the fact that, despite being an “age-old phenomenon”, migration was accelerating as part of broader globalization transformations of economic and trade processes that were enabling greater movement of labour, as well as goods and capital.

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<sup>25</sup> McAuliffe et al., 2017; McAuliffe and Koser, 2017.

<sup>26</sup> World Bank, 2021.

<sup>27</sup> Development Initiatives, 2023.

<sup>28</sup> IEP, 2023; SIPRI, 2023.

<sup>29</sup> IASC, n.d.

<sup>30</sup> IOM, 2000.

Table 1 below provides a summary of key statistics reported in the first edition (*World Migration Report 2000*), as compared to this current edition. It shows that while some aspects have stayed fairly constant – the overall proportion of the world’s population that are migrants – other aspects have changed dramatically. International remittances, for example, have grown from an estimated USD 128 billion to USD 831 billion, underscoring the salience of international migration as a driver of development. Also of note in Table 1 is the rise in international migrants globally, but more strikingly, the rise in the number of refugees and internally displaced persons, all the while remaining small proportions of the world’s population.

Table 1. Key facts and figures from *World Migration Reports 2000 and 2024*

	2000 report	2024 report
Estimated number of international migrants	150 million	281 million
Estimated proportion of world population who are migrants	2.8%	3.6%
Estimated proportion of female international migrants	47.5%	48.0%
Estimated proportion of international migrants who are children	16.0%	10.1%
Region with the highest proportion of international migrants	Oceania	Oceania
Country with the highest proportion of international migrants	United Arab Emirates	United Arab Emirates
Number of migrant workers	–	169 million
Global international remittances (USD)	128 billion	831 billion
Number of refugees	14 million	35.4 million
Number of internally displaced persons	21 million	71.4 million

Sources: See IOM, 2000 and the present edition of the report for sources.

Notes: The dates of the data estimates in the table may be different to the report publishing date (refer to the reports for more detail on dates of estimates); refer to Chapter 3 of this report for regional breakdowns.

The *World Migration Report 2000*’s contribution to migration policy as well as migration studies was timely, and its success heralded the *World Migration Report* series. Since 2000, 12 world migration reports have been produced by IOM, and the report continues to focus on making a relevant, sound and evidence-based contribution that increases the understanding of migration by policymakers, practitioners, researchers and the general public. To support this objective, the series was refined in 2016, moving away from a single theme for each edition to being a global reference report for a wider audience. Each edition now has two parts, comprising:

- Part I: key data and information on migration and migrants;
- Part II: balanced, evidence-based analysis of complex and emerging migration issues.

## New digital tools developed through expert collaboration

The *World Migration Report* series now incorporates a range of digital tools tailored for use in various settings. These tools have been developed in partnerships with some of the world's leading experts in migration data analysis, data visualization, education and the science–policy interface.

The *World Migration Report* interactive data visualizations were developed in recognition of the need to deliver outputs in a wide range of formats for expanded accessibility and utility. Launched in May 2021, and updated regularly, the interactive data visualizations allow users to read both the “headline” summaries on long-term trends, while also interacting with data points to explore specific time periods, corridors or countries. The new interactive format has become the centrepiece of the World Migration Report online platform, which has gone on to win multiple international design and data visualization awards.<sup>31</sup> Additional tools for people working in migration and learning about migration, such as the education toolkit and the policy toolkit, demonstrate the growing salience of migration as well as the utility of the report.<sup>32</sup> IOM partners with an extensive range of experts in developing and delivering both the report and the related tools in a wide variety of languages to increase local use.<sup>33</sup>

## *World Migration Report 2024*

This edition builds on the three previous reports (2018, 2020 and 2022 editions) by providing updated migration statistics at the global and regional levels, as well as descriptive analyses of complex migration issues.

Part I on “key data and information on migration” includes separate chapters on global migration trends and patterns, and regional dimensions and developments. These two chapters have been produced institutionally by IOM, drawing primarily on analyses by IOM experts, practitioners and officials around the world, based on data from a wide range of relevant organizations. The six chapters in Part II are authored by applied and academic researchers working on migration, including IOM researchers. They cover a range of “complex and emerging migration issues”, including:

- Narrowing of mobility options for people from developing countries since 1995 and the need for more regular migration pathways;
- Human security in migration;
- Gender dimensions of migration;
- Climate change, food insecurity and migration;
- Global governance of migration;
- Migration and mobility in a post-COVID world.

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<sup>31</sup> For information on international awards won, please see the [World Migration Report](#) webpage.

<sup>32</sup> See <https://worldmigrationreport.iom.int/about>.

<sup>33</sup> See the [Partner List](#) on the World Migration Report website, which includes many academic institutions, as well as leading policy think tanks and education organizations. As stated in the notes at the front of this report, this edition was not produced with the use of generative AI tools.

While the choice of these topics is necessarily selective and subjective, all the chapters in Part II of this report are directly relevant to some of the most prominent and important debates about migration in the world today. Many of these topics lie at the heart of the conundrums that face policymakers as they seek to formulate effective, proportionate and constructive responses to complex public policy issues related to migration. Accordingly, the chapters aim to inform current and future policy deliberations and discussions by providing a clear identification of the key issues, a critical overview of relevant research and analysis, and a discussion of the implications for future research and policymaking. The chapters are not meant to be prescriptive, in the sense of advocating particular policy “solutions” – especially as the immediate context is an important determinant of policy settings – but to be informative and helpful in what can be highly contested debates.

### *Part I*

Chapter 2 provides an overview of the latest available global data and trends on international migrants (stocks) and international migration (flows). It also provides a discussion of particular migrant groups – namely, migrant workers, international students, refugees, asylum-seekers, internally displaced persons – as well as of international remittances. In addition, the chapter refers to the existing body of IOM programmatic data, particularly on missing migrants, assisted voluntary returns and reintegration, resettlement and displacement tracking. While these data are generally not global or representative, they can provide insights into changes that have occurred in relevant IOM programming and operations worldwide.

Following the global overview, Chapter 3 provides a discussion of key regional dimensions of, and developments in, migration. The discussion focuses on six world regions as identified by the United Nations: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Northern America and Oceania. For each of these regions, the analysis includes: (a) an overview and brief discussion of key population-related statistics; and (b) succinct descriptions of “key features and developments” in migration in the region, based on a wide range of data, information and analyses, including from international organizations, researchers and analysts. To account for the diversity of migration patterns, trends and issues within each of the six regions, along with descriptive narratives of “key features and recent developments”, are presented at the subregional level.

## Part II

### Chapter 4 – Growing migration inequality: What do the global data *actually* show?

- This chapter first appeared in the *World Migration Report 2022* and has been included in this edition due to the high demand for presentations of its analysis which underscores the importance of regular migration pathways.
- The chapter examines the questions of “who migrates internationally, and where do they go?” It analyses diverse statistical data and draws upon some of the existing body of research on migration determinants and decision-making. It shows a growing “mobility inequality”, with most international migration now occurring between rich countries to the increasing exclusion of poorer countries.
- Analysis of international migrant stock and human development index data show that between 1995 and 2020, migration from low- and medium-development countries increased, but only slightly, reconfirming existing macroeconomic analyses showing that international migration from low-income countries has historically been limited.
- However, contrary to previous understandings of international migration, the analysis indicates that there has been a “polarizing” effect, with migration activity increasingly being associated with highly developed countries. This raises the key issue of migration aspirations held by potential migrants from developing countries around the world who may wish to realize opportunities through international migration, but are unable to do so as regular pathways are unavailable to them.
- Importantly, when geographic areas of free movement are established, States and people utilize them to great benefit. For example, over the long term, nations in the visa-free Schengen area in Europe experienced much higher levels of mobility growth than non-Schengen nations. The ECOWAS protocols in West Africa have also led to increased migration within the area and decreased migration outside of that bloc.



## Chapter 5 – Migration and human security: Unpacking myths and examining new realities and responses

- This chapter examines the interaction between migration, mobility and human security in contemporary settings at a time when misinformation and disinformation about migration and migrants are both increasing and increasingly effective. It draws upon conceptualizations of the topic that have evolved over recent decades.
- The most significant link between migration and security relates to the human security of migrants themselves, rather than the national security of States. The vulnerability of migrants throughout the migration cycle is evident at all stages and in a wide variety of manifestations during pre-departure, transit, entry, stay and return. However, it is important to note that not all international migration is connected to, or caused by, human insecurity.
- Policies can potentially improve human security for migrants and communities, addressing international, regional, national and subnational policy considerations as shown in the six short case studies presented in this chapter. Nonetheless, there is no one-size-fits-all policy approach to improving human security, as it depends on specific challenges and how they manifest. Therefore authorities at multiple levels and non-State actors need to actively develop, implement and measure solutions that facilitate a human security approach to migration and mobility.



## Chapter 6 – Gender and migration: Trends, gaps and urgent action

- This chapter provides an overview of the interactions between migration and gender across diverse geographies worldwide. It covers family migration, marriage migration and displacement, with a particular focus on labour migration, one of the main – and highly gendered – types of migration.
- The chapter explores how gender influences migration experiences, including displacement, throughout the migration cycle from pre-departure to entry and stay in destination countries and, if applicable, return to the country of origin. The showcased examples illustrate how gender may trigger diverse opportunities as well as vulnerabilities and risks for migrants.
- Drawing from the analysis of the existing gender dimensions throughout the migration cycle, four cross-cutting gender challenges are identified, complemented by promising practices or innovative interventions from different countries. These are related to stereotypes, access to information, the digital divide and regular migration pathways.
- The chapter highlights the urgency of adopting a gender-responsive approach to migration governance to empower migrants of all genders and promote gender equality more generally as the “prerequisite for a better world”.





## Chapter 7 – Climate change, food insecurity and human mobility: Interlinkages, evidence and action

- This chapter explores the interlinkages between climate change, food insecurity and human mobility, highlighting the complexities of their relationships in multiple scenarios across the globe. The analysis is nuanced and goes beyond the simplistic view of human mobility as a natural consequence of climate change impacts and food insecurity.
- Evidence shows that climate change plays an important part in adding further pressure on existing systems and communities. However, it cannot be considered the sole driver of food insecurity or migration, given prevailing power dynamics, fragilities in governance, structures of globalized food production and other social factors.
- Migration appears as a coping or adaptation strategy to reduce the adverse effects of climate change. Nonetheless, in some contexts, it can be maladaptive. The outcomes of migration as an adaptation tool depend on the circumstances of the individuals or households engaging in human mobility, as well as on the involvement and agency of migrants.
- The chapter showcases the need for highly contextual interventions that address inequality and power dynamics, including a gender perspective, leveraging local and indigenous knowledge, and carefully assessing possible maladaptive consequences for vulnerable populations.



## Chapter 8 – Towards a global governance of migration? From the 2005 Global Commission on International Migration to the 2022 International Migration Review Forum and beyond

- This chapter explores the implications of global migration governance as a multi-stakeholder regime under the guidance of the United Nations, building on chapters from the two previous World Migration Reports. It traces the evolution of international cooperation on migration from the Global Commission for International Migration (2005) to the 2022 International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), delving into the historical dimension and examining the influence of past recommendations.
- The chapter analyses the outcomes of the IMRF, shedding light on key tensions and contentious issues in policy discussions surrounding global migration governance. By providing a comprehensive view of the developments between 2003 and the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in 2018, the chapter explores the impact of systemic crises and geopolitical changes, emphasizing the role played by the Global Forum on Migration and Development.



- The discussion extends to the remaining limitations of the current governance architecture, particularly in the context of contemporary geopolitical challenges, offering reflections on migration governance at the regional level. Migration requires a truly whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. Developments in global governance will only benefit all persons on the move if the emerging architecture accommodates this reality.

## Chapter 9 – A post-pandemic rebound? Migration and mobility globally after COVID-19

- This chapter examines the transformative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on global migration and mobility, providing an update to the chapter on COVID-19 in the *World Migration Report 2022*. It addresses the following questions: “How have travel and movement restrictions changed since the last Report? How have migration and mobility patterns evolved across the same period? And what are the most important long-term implications of these trends?”
- Human migration and mobility have rebounded significantly since the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, after three years, much of the world is still less mobile than it was in 2019. The harshest restrictions have receded, but they have left behind a more complex and restrictive migration policy landscape.
- COVID-19 has catalysed or accelerated social transformations, both temporary and structural, across regions. These transformations include: changes in consumption patterns in developed and developing countries; high inflation and global economic slowdowns; demographic changes; the ongoing importance of remittances sent by migrant workers to their families and communities; automation; digital outsourcing; and the changing role of labour mobility in the global economy.



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