



Infosheet No 1

World Migration Report Overview

International migration is a complex phenomenon that touches on a multiplicity of economic, social and security aspects all around the world. In this overview chapter of IOM's flagship publication, the *World Migration Report 2020*, readers will be able to access key trends, data and information at a glance. More than just an executive summary of the report, the overview chapter links the strategic "bigger picture" on migration and displacement dynamics to broader global transformations occurring around the world, especially

as they related to (mis)information, political change and technology. The *World Migration Report 2020* seeks to use the body of available data, research and analysis on migration to help build the evidence base on some of the most important and pressing global migration issues of our time. By their very nature, the complex dynamics of global migration can never be fully measured, understood and regulated. However, as this report shows, we do have a continuously growing and improving body of data and information that can help us "make better sense" of the basic features of migration in increasingly uncertain times. For information on migration trends and issues globally, with its focus on the last two years, the *World Migration Report 2020* is an authoritative reference like no other.

HIGHLIGHTS OF PART I OF THE REPORT (data and information)

- The number of international migrants globally in 2019 was 272 million (or 3.5% of the world's population).
- India continued to be the largest country of origin of international migrants (17.5 million).
- The top destination country remained the United States (50.7 million international migrants).
- The number of migrant workers declined slightly in high income countries while increasing elsewhere.
- Globally, male migrant workers outnumbered female migrant workers by 28 million in 2017 (96 million male and 68 million female).
- International remittances increased to USD 689 billion in 2018.
- The global refugee population was 25.9 million in 2018.

- The number of internally displaced persons due to violence and conflict reached 41.3 million.
- The number of stateless persons globally in 2018 was 3.9 million.
- Migration patterns vary from region to region.
- Migration has been a key determinant of population change in several countries.
- Displacement remained a major feature in some regions.
- Migration research and analysis output remained high.

PART II OF THE REPORT (complex and emerging migration issues)

Part II contains seven chapters co-authored with scholars and applied researchers working on migration and mobility. They cover a range of “complex and emerging migration issues” that are directly relevant to some of the most prominent and important debates about migration and mobility in the world today. Many of the 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:

Chapter 5 on migrants’ contributions globally in socio-cultural, civic-political and economic terms

Chapter 6 on migration, inclusion and social cohesion

Chapter 7 on migration and health

Chapter 8 on children and unsafe migration

Chapter 9 on human mobility and adaptation to environmental change

Chapter 10 on migrants caught in crises

Chapter 11 as an update on global migration governance.

As can be seen from the key highlights above, there have been incremental changes in migration in the last two years, such as in the overall scale of migration and displacement, although these changes could not be described as “seismic”. Rather, it would appear that there has been a deepening of existing patterns of migration as opportunities brought about by economic growth and reform, trade liberalization and long-term stability have been further realized. There is also a growing body of evidence indicating that while the general notion of international migration may seem simple and straightforward – as depicted in news media, for example – its complexities are becoming more apparent.

To read the report, please go to www.iom.int/wmr