

WORLD MIGRATION REPORT 2018: CHAPTER 3



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Publisher: International Organization for Migration
17 route des Morillons
P.O. Box 17
1211 Geneva 19
Switzerland
Tel.: +41 22 717 9111
Fax: +41 22 798 6150
E-mail: hq@iom.int
Website: www.iom.int

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Cover photo: A woman and her child pose outside of their makeshift home built from a collection of fabrics inside the Farm Centre internally displaced persons (IDPs) camp in Maiduguri, Nigeria. She joins several others who have had their villages razed by the armed group, Boko Haram. © IOM (Photo by Muse Mohammed)

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3

MIGRATION AND MIGRANTS: REGIONAL DIMENSIONS AND DEVELOPMENTS

Introduction

The previous chapter on global migration data and trends provides an overview of the “big picture” in migration, with specific reference to international migrants (stocks) and international migration (flows); particular migrant groups, including migrant workers, refugees, asylum seekers and internally displaced persons; and remittances. Chapter 2 concentrates primarily at the global level, with some reference to regional variance and occasional country-level examples. In this chapter, with its focus on regional dimensions and developments, we set out a different, but complementary perspective of migrants and movements in different parts of the world.

Our starting point is geographic, rather than thematic, given that geography is one of the fundamentals underpinning migration, both in the present and certainly historically. Notwithstanding recent advances in transportation and telecommunications technology – which many argue are shrinking the world we in which we live (see, for example, the chapter on mobility, migration and transnational connectivity in this report) – geography is often one of the most significant factors in shaping patterns of migration and displacement. Many people who migrate across borders do so within their immediate region, to countries that are close by, countries to which it may be easier to travel, that may be more familiar, and from which it may also be easier to return. For people who are displaced, finding safety quickly is paramount when moving away from disasters and crises such as transnational or civil conflict, extreme violence, and rapid-onset hazards such as catastrophic weather events. People, therefore, tend to be displaced to safer locations nearby, whether that is within a country or across a border.

This chapter seeks to assist migration policymakers, practitioners and researchers in making better sense of international migration by using a geographic perspective to present regional migration overviews. The analysis in this chapter focuses on six world regions as defined by the United Nations, and used by UN DESA and other organizations:

- Africa
- Asia
- Europe
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Northern America
- Oceania

For each of these regions, the analysis includes: (i) an overview and brief discussion of key migration statistics based on data compiled and reported by UN DESA and UNHCR¹; and (ii) succinct descriptions of “key features and developments” in migration in the region, based on a wide range of data, information and analyses from international organizations, researchers and analysts. To account for the diversity of migration patterns, trends

1 Please refer to chapter 2, appendix A for definitions of key terms, such as “international migrant”.

and issues within each of the six regions, the descriptive narratives of “key features and recent developments” are presented at the subregional level. For Africa, for example, this cascade approach allows for the presentation of insights from statistical data on Africa as a whole, followed by summary information on subregions including North Africa, West and Central Africa, and Eastern and Southern Africa. A breakdown of the regions and subregions is provided in appendix A. These subregional overviews provide information on migration patterns from, within and to the subregions.² Beyond this, attention has been paid to particular features that exist in a subregion, such as labour migration and remittances, irregular migration, migrant smuggling, displacement (internal and international), and integration. The subregional overviews are not intended to be exhaustive, but are designed to be illustrative of key trends, patterns and issues.

As highlighted in the previous chapter, we now have more data on migration than at any other time in history, although important data gaps still exist – migration data across the world tend to be fragmented and lacking in uniformity, at times hampering our collective ability to undertake analysis and inform policy, programmes and operations.³ The chapter draws heavily on the existing evidence base and sources are provided in footnotes and references section. We encourage readers to refer to sources cited in this chapter to learn more about topics of interest.

Africa⁴

Migration in Africa involves roughly equal numbers of migrants moving either within or out of the region. As shown in figure 1, in 2015 over 16 million Africans were living in another African country, while an additional 16 million were living in a different region. The population of African migrants residing within the region grew from 2000 onwards, especially during the last five-year period. It is important to note that the large numbers and relatively small sizes of some countries in Africa have an effect on how international migration within the region is measured and therefore reflected in statistical data. Other factors, such as free movement agreements, porous borders, and migration and displacement drivers, are discussed in the *key features and developments* section below.

Figure 1 reflects that while international migration within the African region has increased since 2000, the most significant growth by far has occurred in migration from Africa to other regions. Since 1990, the number of African migrants living outside of the region has more than doubled, with the growth to Europe most pronounced. In 2015, most African-born migrants living outside the region were residing in Europe (9 million), Asia (4 million) and Northern America (2 million).

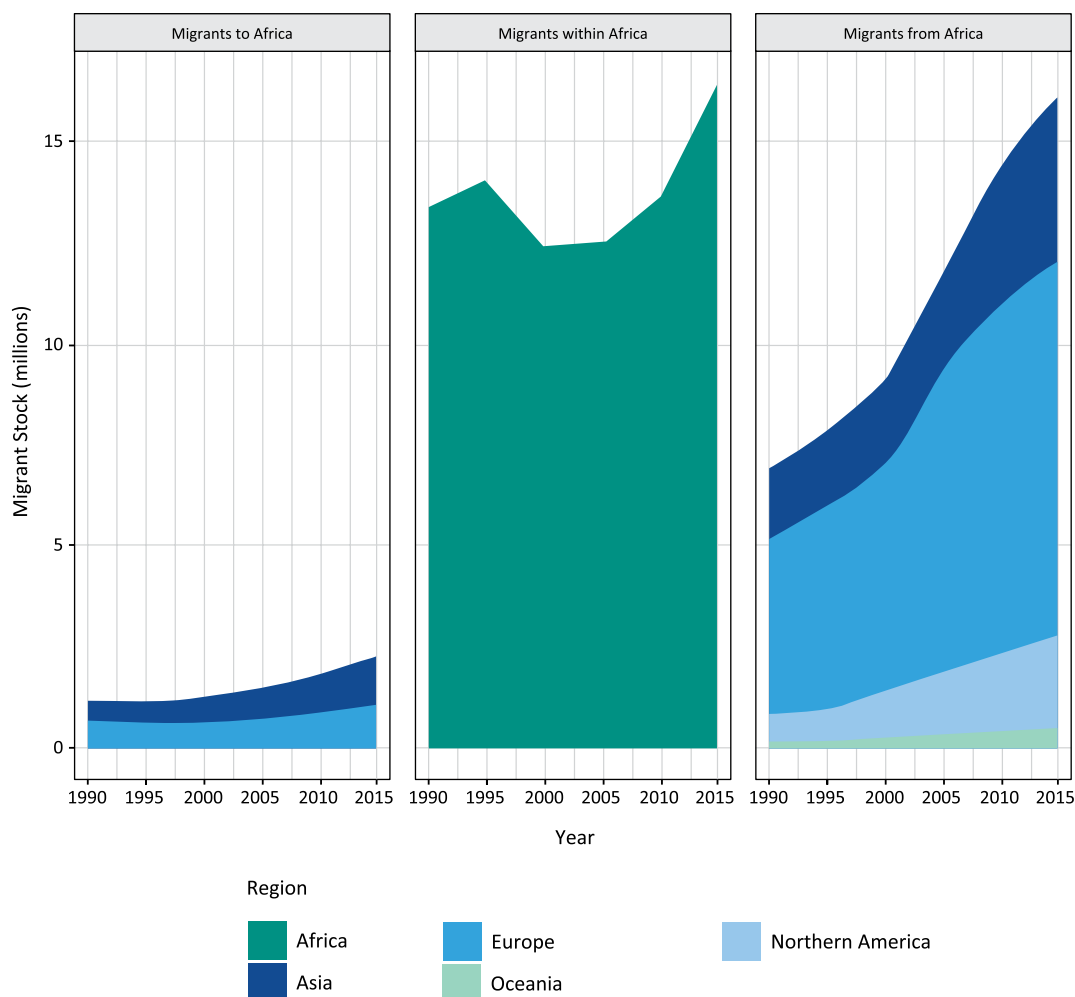
One of the most striking aspects to note about international migrants in Africa, as shown in figure 1, is the small number of migrants who were born outside of the region and have since moved there. While this has increased over time, in 2015 Africa was home to a relatively modest 2.3 million migrants from outside the region, most of whom were from Asia and Europe.

2 Please note that subregions relate largely to migration dynamics and so may differ from those of UN DESA. Details are provided in appendix A.

3 Please note that all reasonable efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of data referred to in this chapter, including through data verification. We regret, however, any data errors that may remain. Please refer to primary sources for technical and explanatory notes, limitations and caveats on data.

4 See appendix A for details on the composition of Africa.

Figure 1. Migrants to Africa, within Africa and from Africa between 1990 and 2015

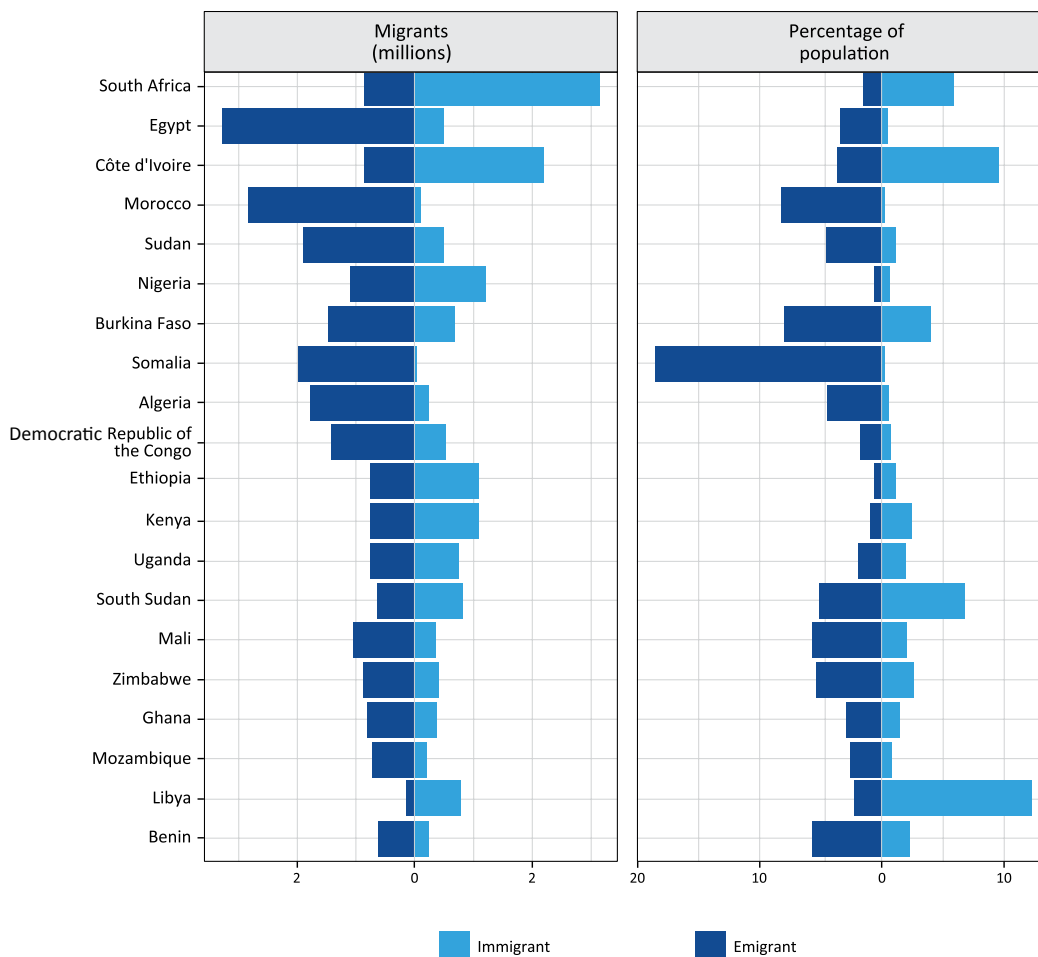


Source: UN DESA, 2015a.

Note: "Migrants to Africa" refers to migrants residing in the region (i.e. Africa) who were born in one of the other regions (e.g. Europe or Asia). "Migrants within Africa" refers to migrants born in the region (i.e. Africa) and residing outside their country of birth, but still within the African region. "Migrants from Africa" refers to people born in Africa who were residing outside the region (e.g. in Europe or Northern America).

The African countries with the largest number of emigrants tend to be in the north of the region. These are shown on the left-hand side of Figure 2, where countries are ranked by their overall numbers of migrants (i.e. the combination of immigrants in the country and emigrants from the country). In 2015, Egypt had the largest number of people living abroad, followed by Morocco, Somalia, Sudan and Algeria. In terms of the number of immigrants, South Africa is the most significant destination country in Africa, with around 3.1 million international migrants residing in the country (or around 6% of its total population). Other countries with high immigrant populations as a proportion of their total populations included Gabon (16%), Djibouti (13%), Libya (12%), Côte d'Ivoire and Gambia (both 10%).

Figure 2. Top 20 African migrant countries in 2015



Source: UN DESA, 2015a.

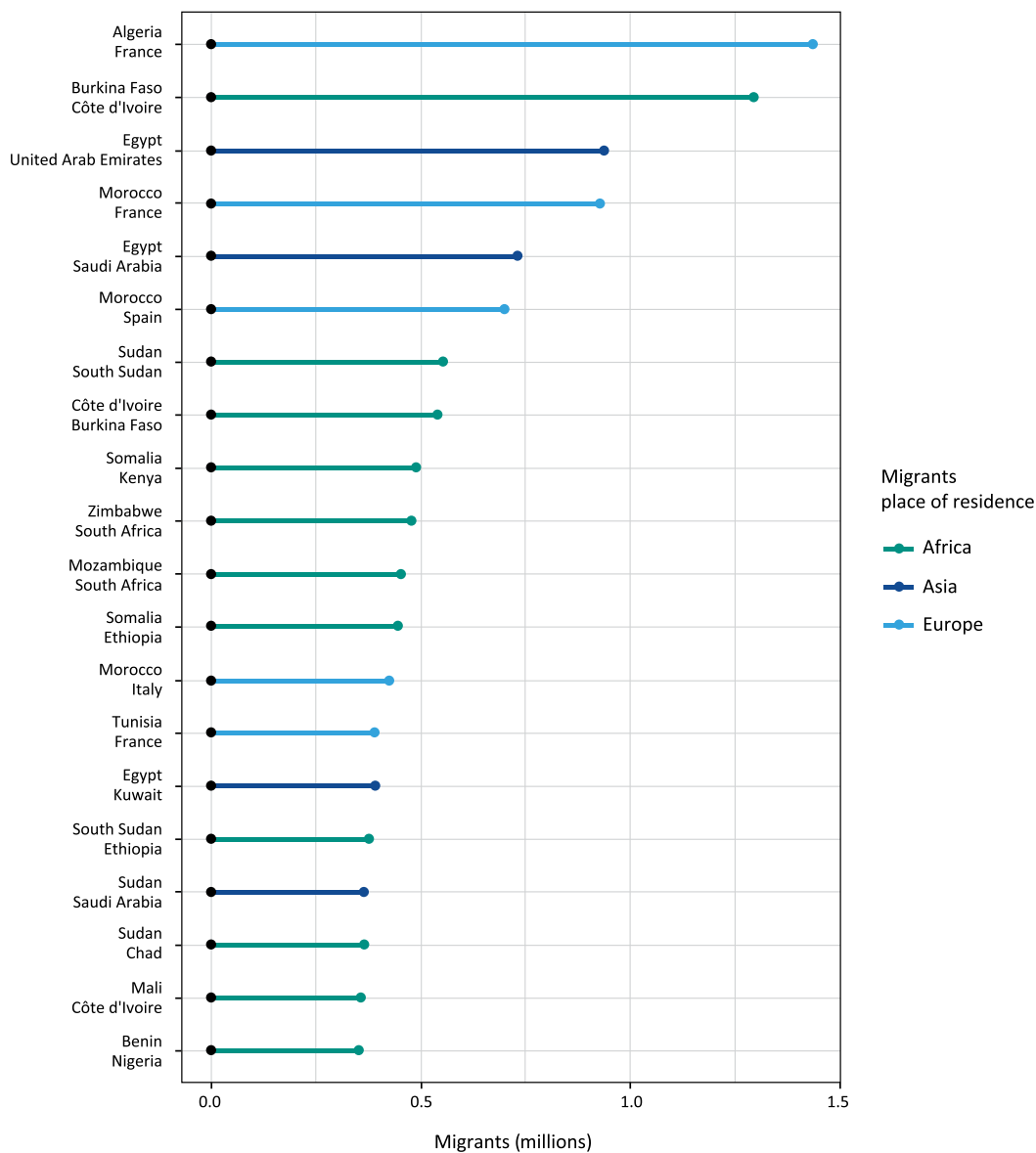
Note 1: The population size used to calculate the percentage of immigrants and emigrants is based on the UN DESA total resident population of the country, which includes foreign-born populations.

Note 2: "Immigrant" refers to foreign-born migrants residing in the country. "Emigrant" refers to people born in the country who were residing outside their country of birth in 2015.

There are significant migration corridors within and from Africa, many of which are related to geographic proximity and historical ties, as well as displacement factors. The size of a migration corridor from country A to country B is measured as the number of immigrants from country A who were residing in country B in 2015. Migration corridors represent an accumulation of migratory movements over time and provide a snapshot of how migration patterns have evolved into significant foreign-born populations in specific destination countries. Some of the largest migration corridors involving African countries, as shown in figure 3, are between North African countries such as Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia to France, Spain and Italy, in part reflecting post-colonial connections. There are also significant labour migration corridors to Gulf states – see Egypt to United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia

for example. Importantly, just over half of the main migration corridors shown in figure 3 were within Africa, with the corridor between Burkina Faso to neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire constituting the second largest for Africa overall. Selected migration corridors are discussed in more detail below in the *key features and developments* section.

Figure 3. Top 20 migration corridors Involving African countries

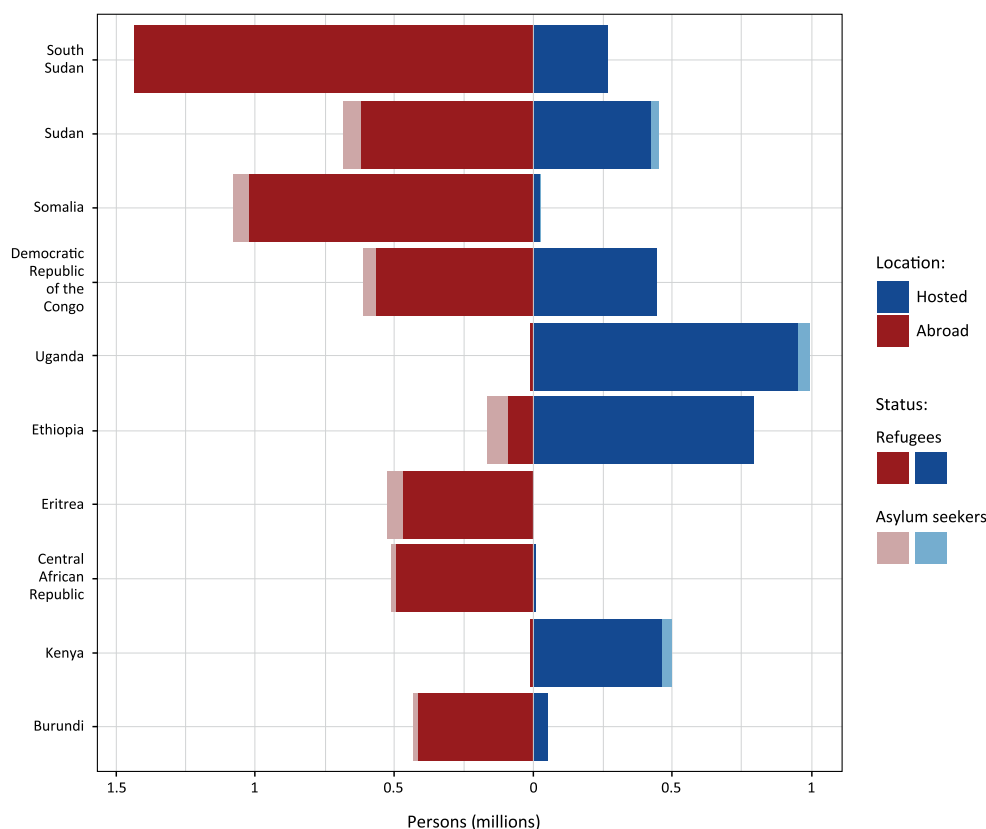


Source: UN DESA, 2015a.

Note: Corridors represent an accumulation of migratory movements over time and provide a snapshot of how migration patterns have evolved into significant foreign-born populations in specific destination countries.

Displacement within and from Africa is a major feature of the region, as shown in figure 4. Most refugees and asylum seekers in Africa were hosted in neighbouring countries within the region. The top 10 countries in Africa, ranked by the combined total of refugees and asylum seekers both hosted by and originating from a given country, are shown in figure 4. In 2016, South Sudan had the highest number of refugees in the region, and the third highest in the world. Most were hosted by Uganda and Ethiopia. Somalia has produced the second highest number of refugees after its long history of conflict and recent droughts, with the majority hosted in neighbouring countries such as Ethiopia and Kenya. Other large refugee populations have originated from Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic and Eritrea. The main drivers of displacement include conflict and violence, which in some cases has exacerbated food insecurity issues. Many of these countries also host large refugee populations. Figure 4 also shows that several countries are both origin countries of significant numbers of refugees, as well as host countries of refugees – namely South Sudan, Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Figure 4. Top 10 African countries by total refugees and asylum seekers, 2016



Source: UNHCR, n.d.a.

Note: "Hosted" refers to those refugees and asylum seekers from other countries who are residing in the receiving country (right-hand side of the figure); "abroad" refers to refugees and asylum seekers originating from that country who are outside of their origin country. Chapter 2 (appendix A) includes definitions of key terms such as "refugee". The top 10 countries are based on 2016 data and are calculated by combining refugees and asylum seekers in and from countries.

Key features and developments in Africa

North Africa⁵

- **Migration of North Africans to Europe and Gulf States continues to be a defining feature of the migration dynamics of the region, and one that has developed over several decades.** Migration of North Africans to countries outside of Africa has been, and continues to be, much higher than migration to other countries within the subregion and within Africa.⁶ Two distinct streams have characterized outflows from North Africa: migrants from the north-west (e.g. Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia) have historically moved to Europe, owing to their geographic proximity, previous labour recruitment agreements and post-colonial ties,⁷ while those from the north-east (e.g. Egypt and Sudan) have predominantly sought temporary work in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)⁸ countries. Large income disparities between the origin and destination countries, and the high levels of unemployment in North Africa, remain significant drivers of migration. As of 2015, about 10.6 million North Africans were living outside their country of birth, with roughly half in Europe and about 3 million living in Gulf States.⁹
- **Although the North African subregion is primarily a migrant transit area, it also hosts notable populations of international migrants, including refugees.** Libya had the largest number of international migrants in the subregion, at over 770,000 in 2015.¹⁰ Sudan also had large foreign-born populations originating from South Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Chad. The number of international migrants in Egypt increased between 2010 to 2015, from 295,000 to 491,000, with migrants primarily originating from the Palestinian Territories, the Syrian Arab Republic, Somalia and Sudan.¹¹ While Morocco has traditionally been a country of emigration, it is increasingly becoming a destination country, including of migrants from other regions in Africa, who stay for an indeterminate period while looking for a way to cross over to Europe.¹²
- **Conflict and violence within and in surrounding subregions has contributed to displacement in North Africa.** At the end of 2016, there were nearly 650,000 refugees from Sudan, the majority of whom were hosted by the neighbouring countries of Chad and South Sudan.¹³ Sudan also had approximately 3.3 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), making it the country with the third highest population of IDPs in the world.¹⁴ At the same time, Sudan is also a prominent host country of refugees, with over 400,000 refugees, most of whom were from South Sudan.¹⁵ Algeria also hosted over 90,000 refugees by the end of 2016,¹⁶ while Egypt hosted over 210,000 refugees, primarily originating from the Syrian Arab Republic, the

5 See appendix A for the composition of North Africa.

6 Flahaux and de Haas, 2016.

7 Natter, 2014.

8 The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) is a regional political organization comprised of six countries: Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

9 UN DESA, 2015a.

10 Ibid.

11 Ibid.

12 Reifeld, 2015.

13 UNHCR, 2017a.

14 IDMC, 2017.

15 UNHCR, 2017a.

16 Ibid.

Palestinian Territories and other African countries.¹⁷ A volatile security and political situation in Libya has contributed to a total population of more than 300,000 IDPs by the end of 2016, while also affecting the more than 38,000 refugees and asylum seekers residing in Libya.¹⁸

- **As a key hub of transit activity for migrants originating from many countries to the south, the North African subregion is confronted with protection challenges associated with irregular migration to Europe.** Between 2011 and 2016, approximately 630,000 people used the “Central Mediterranean route” to reach Italy.¹⁹ In 2016 alone, more than 181,000 people were detected on the Central Mediterranean route (the main route of arrival via irregular migration to Europe in 2016), with the majority arriving in Italy.²⁰ The majority departed from Libya (almost 90%), with other departure countries including Egypt, Algeria and Tunisia.²¹ Of those who disembarked in Italy in 2016, the majority were from Western and Eastern Africa (Nigeria, Eritrea, Guinea, Côte d’Ivoire, Gambia, Senegal, Mali and Somalia) and over half applied for asylum.²² Of the more than 180,000 migrants who disembarked in Italy in 2016, 13 per cent (approximately 24,000) were women, while 15 per cent (28,000) were children – the vast majority (91%) of whom were unaccompanied. The proportion of children, including unaccompanied children, has increased.²³ Others travelled from Morocco and Algeria to Spain, along the so-called “Western Mediterranean” route. Protection challenges and serious human rights violations along these corridors are profound and include deaths at sea, in the desert and in other transit locations; missing migrants, exploitation, physical and emotional abuse, trafficking, smuggling, sexual and gender-based violence, arbitrary detention, forced labour, ransom demands and extortion; and other human rights violations.²⁴ Some migrants – including refugees – also become stranded in countries in the region.²⁵

*West and Central Africa*²⁶

- **Intraregional migration, which is significant in West and Central Africa, is characterized by mixed migration flows influenced by multiple drivers.** While there are significant data deficits on migration flows within Africa and accurate numbers can be difficult to ascertain, more recent estimates reflect that the vast majority of international migrants in West and Central Africa move within the subregion.²⁷ The high number of people moving within West Africa is linked to several factors, including visa-free movement among the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) members, the relatively small sizes of many countries in the region and the strong networks among the many ethnic groups scattered across the subregion.²⁸ Importantly, intraregional migration within ECOWAS is mostly due to labour mobility, with seasonal, temporary and permanent migrant workers moving largely from countries such as Niger

17 UNHCR, n.d.a.

18 UNHCR, 2017a.

19 European Commission, 2017a.

20 European Commission, 2017b.

21 Ibid.

22 Ibid.

23 Ibid.; see also, IOM, 2016d.

24 See, for example, IOM’s Missing Migrants Project; Mixed Migration Hub, 2015; Altai Consulting and IOM, 2015a; Kelly, 2017; UNHCR, 2017d.

25 Altai Consulting and IOM, 2015a.

26 See appendix A for details on the composition of West and Central Africa.

27 Adepoju, 2016.

28 Flahaux and de Haas, 2016.

and Mali toward coastal countries such as Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire.²⁹ Unlike West Africa, where economic factors are important drivers of intraregional migration, conflict and instability have played a larger role in displacement to neighbouring countries in Central Africa.³⁰ However, labour migration is not absent in Central Africa, with Gabon, for example, home to a large number of migrant workers from within Central Africa who work in its oil and lumber industries.³¹

- **Notwithstanding free movement agreements, irregular migration remains prevalent in West and Central Africa.** For many West and Central African migrants attempting to cross the Mediterranean to reach Europe, Niger is an important country of transit and as well as a major smuggling hub.³² The use of smugglers to cross borders even within free movement areas such as ECOWAS is not uncommon, particularly in circumstances where people do not possess documents such as passports or travel certificates.³³ It is important to emphasize, however, that most West Africans who are smuggled overland begin their journeys as regular migrants under the free movement protocol and only violate immigration laws after exiting the ECOWAS area.³⁴ Moreover, a number of borders in West Africa are extremely porous, enabling unauthorized movements between countries, with several ECOWAS borders cutting across politically unstable and sparsely populated areas, which are also characterized by security deficiencies.³⁵
- **Conflict and violence linked to political upheavals, communal and ethnic tensions, and Boko Haram extremism, have meant that most countries in West and Central Africa are affected by internal or cross-border displacement, although the magnitude varies dramatically.** As with other subregions in Africa, countries in West and Central Africa have long histories of hosting and producing displaced populations, often simultaneously. For example, at the end of 2016, there were close to 540,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo globally, while the country was host to over 450,000 refugees originating from other countries; this was in addition to around 2.2 million IDPs in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.³⁶ Other countries in the region with similar dynamics in 2016 include Central African Republic, Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, Mali and Niger.³⁷ The scale of the displacement crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2016 meant it was in the top 10 globally as (a) a refugee host country (ninth); (b) an origin country of refugees (sixth); (c) a country with total new internal displacements due to conflict and violence (first); (d) a country with new internal displacement relative to population (eighth); and (f) total stock of IDPs (fifth).³⁸ IDMC has termed the situation “an overlooked displacement crisis”, while UNHCR notes that the socioeconomic context (one of the world’s poorest countries when measured by gross national income per capita), combined with insecurity and access constraints, present significant challenges for protection and assistance.³⁹

29 Devillard, Bacchi and Noack, 2016.

30 IOM, n.d.d.

31 Ibid.

32 Altai Consulting and IOM, 2015b.

33 Ibid.

34 Carling, 2016.

35 Ibid.

36 UNHCR 2017a; IDMC, 2017.

37 Ibid.

38 Ibid.

39 IDMC, 2017; UNHCR, n.d.b. For internal displacement, more generally, see also IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (IOM, n.d.c), particularly for Cameroon and Mali, available at www.globaldtn.info.

- **Environmental changes in West and Central Africa are impacting human livelihoods and mobility.** For example, although precipitations in the Sahel⁴⁰ are slowly increasing, they are becoming increasingly variable, leading to the frequent occurrence of droughts and floods.⁴¹ At the same time, rapid population growth has led to the intensification of cropping, deforestation and overgrazing, contributing to land degradation.⁴² Despite an increase in the scale of agriculture in the region, food insecurity still affects millions.⁴³ For example, as of June 2016, 4.6 million people were severely food insecure in the Lake Chad Basin, with numbers expected to increase in 2017.⁴⁴ Millions of people in West and Central Africa depend on Lake Chad; however, the lake's volume has decreased by 90 per cent in area in the last 40 years due to increased drought, as well as human-related causes such as increased irrigation withdrawals.⁴⁵ The complex and interconnected environmental changes such as droughts and floods, over-exploitation of resources and climate change are contributing factors to rural-urban and cyclical mobility within countries and across borders in the region. Migration is one strategy used to increase livelihoods and reduce risks in the Western Sahel, particularly in light of uncertain agricultural returns.⁴⁶ Research has also highlighted the interconnections between, on the one hand, impacts of climate change on natural-resource-dependent livelihoods and food insecurity, and on the other hand, tensions, conflicts and mobility.⁴⁷

*Eastern and Southern Africa*⁴⁸

- **For several countries within Eastern and Southern Africa, emigration, immigration and forced displacement underpin substantial intra- and extraregional movement, as well as inflows of migrants from outside the continent.** Eastern and Southern Africa have long been major destinations for non-African migrants, with immigrants of largely Asian descent moving to work temporarily or settle permanently. Immigration from India has historically been significant in countries such as Uganda, Kenya and South Africa,⁴⁹ while recent years have seen a sharp increase in the number of Chinese migrant workers moving to countries in the subregion.⁵⁰ Intraregional labour migration is also well established in Southern Africa, where significant numbers of people have traditionally migrated from countries such as Malawi, Lesotho, Zimbabwe and Swaziland to work in key sectors such as mining in South Africa and Botswana.⁵¹ Owing to its advanced economy and relative political stability, South Africa has experienced high volumes of immigration in recent years, attracting migrants, asylum seekers and refugees from within and outside Southern Africa. The number of international migrants in South Africa increased

40 The Sahel region is a semi-arid tropical savanna ecoregion spanning many countries in West and Central Africa, including Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Chad and Sudan.

41 Hummel, Doeverspeck and Simimi, 2012.

42 Ibid.

43 UNEP, 2011.

44 FAO, 2016; FAO, n.d.

45 Gao et al., 2011.

46 Hummel and Liehr, 2015.

47 UNEP, 2011.

48 See appendix A for details on the composition of Eastern and Southern Africa.

49 Flahaux and de Haas, 2016.

50 Cook et al., 2016.

51 Nshimbi and Fioramonti, 2013.

from 1.9 million in 2010 to 3.1 million in 2015.⁵² Meanwhile, Eastern Africa continues to experience considerable levels of outward labour mobility, driven by poverty, low wages and high unemployment.⁵³ This is most evident in the recent spike in the number of low and semi-skilled East Africans moving to GCC States on temporary work contracts. The Gulf States' proximity to Eastern Africa, the employment opportunities they offer, as well as recent labour agreements between countries such as the United Arab Emirates and Kenya⁵⁴ and Saudi Arabia and Ethiopia,⁵⁵ mean that labour migration to GCC countries is likely to rise.

- **Migration in Eastern and Southern Africa continues to involve high numbers of irregular migrants, characterized by mixed migration flows and underpinned by multiple drivers, including socioeconomic factors, conflict and political instability.** In addition to socioeconomic factors, conflict and political instability remain important drivers of irregular migration to and from Eastern Africa. Migrant smuggling is particularly prominent in both subregions, with people increasingly using the services of smugglers to reach their intended destinations. Many smuggling networks are based in the Horn of Africa, while countries that are members of the East African Community (EAC) such as Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania are largely transit countries.⁵⁶ The Middle East, Europe and Southern Africa are the three major destinations for migrants from Eastern Africa, who use four major routes, including the western route via Sudan, into Libya and across the Mediterranean; the northern route via Egypt to Israel; the southern route down the Eastern Corridor toward South Africa; and the eastern route transiting through Yemen to Saudi Arabia and beyond.⁵⁷ Similar to Eastern Africa, irregular migration is widespread in Southern Africa, involving intraregional migrants such as those from Zimbabwe to South Africa as well as those from outside the subregion. Many migrants originate from the Horn of Africa, notably from Ethiopia and Somalia. These migrants frequently utilize the services of smugglers.⁵⁸ However, these persons often face a significant number of vulnerabilities, including extortion, physical and sexual violence, kidnapping and robbery, with many losing their lives as a result of being transported in inhumane conditions.⁵⁹
- **Intractable conflicts, political and communal violence and peacebuilding setbacks have displaced millions in Eastern Africa, with most countries in the subregion affected.** At the end of 2016, for example, there were over 1.4 million South Sudanese refugees (the majority of whom were children) and over 1.8 million IDPs.⁶⁰ Somalia was the origin of over 1 million refugees and more than 1.1 million IDPs, while Burundi, Eritrea, Rwanda and Ethiopia also produced significant populations of refugees, IDPs, or both.⁶¹ The scale of displacement stemming from South Sudan and Somalia has meant that they are among the top origin countries in the world.⁶² The civil war in Somalia, for example, has

52 UN DESA, 2016.

53 Manji, 2017.

54 Ibid.

55 GCAO, 2017.

56 Majidi and Oucho, 2016.

57 Danish Refugee Council and RMMS, 2017.

58 Frouws and Horwood, 2017.

59 Schwikowski, 2016.

60 UNHCR, 2017a; IDMC, 2017.

61 Ibid.

62 UNHCR, 2017a.

pushed people into other countries in the region, as well as eastward to countries such as Yemen;⁶³ however, the unrelenting conflict in Yemen has created intolerable conditions, forcing migrants to return to Eastern Africa, while generating new asylum and refugee arrivals, including non-African nationals such as Yemenis.⁶⁴ Meanwhile, Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania are major hosts of refugees, predominantly from the subregion, as is South Sudan – notwithstanding the conflict that has prompted large-scale displacement from and within that country.⁶⁵ The complex and multicausal factors triggering displacement and inhibiting solutions have meant that these host countries – some of the least developed in the world – continue to provide long-term refuge to a disproportionate share of the world's displaced.⁶⁶

- **Environmental change and disasters in Eastern and Southern Africa are prevalent and increasing, and are influencing human movement and displacement.** The subregion has faced increased variability in precipitation and higher occurrence of drought in recent decades.⁶⁷ These slow-onset environmental changes have a major impact on food security, given that agriculture is a dominant economic sector in both Eastern and Southern Africa.⁶⁸ Recently, drought influenced by an El Niño climate cycle in 2015 and 2016 has caused a humanitarian crisis related to widespread food shortages and famine,⁶⁹ contributing (in addition to other non-environmental factors) to human displacement in a number of countries.⁷⁰ Rapid-onset disasters such as flooding in 2016 also displaced around 300,000 people in Ethiopia, 40,000 in Kenya, 70,000 in Somalia, and thousands more in the United Republic of Tanzania and Madagascar.⁷¹

Asia⁷²

Asia – home to 4.4 billion people – was the origin of over 40 per cent of the world's international migrants in 2015. Over half (59 million) were residing in other countries in Asia. As shown in the middle panel of figure 5, intraregional migration within Asia has increased significantly over time, rising from 35 million in 1990. Considerable growth has also occurred in Asian-born migrant populations in Northern America (15.5 million in 2015) and Europe (20 million in 2015). Migration from Asia to these two regions drove much of the increase in the number of Asian migrants outside the region, reaching 40 million in 2015.

63 Ibid.

64 Danish Refugee Council and RMMS, 2017.

65 UNHCR, 2017a.

66 IOM, n.d.c.

67 Climate and Development Knowledge Network, 2014a.

68 Tierney, Ummenhofer and deMenocal, 2015; USAID, n.d.

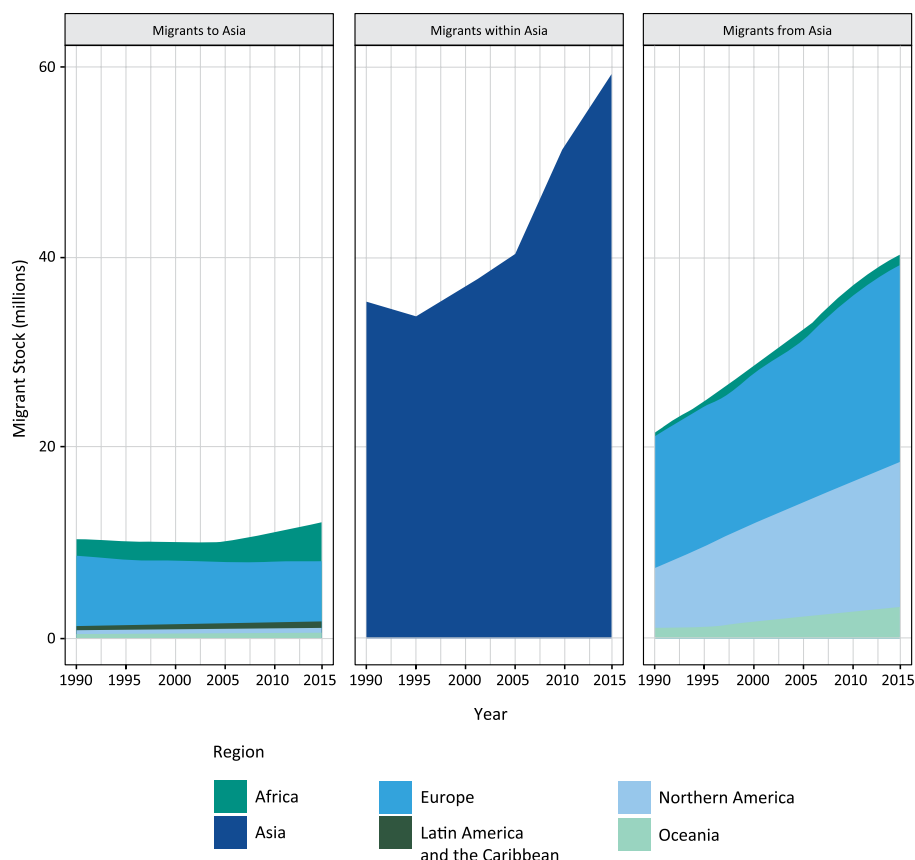
69 UNOCHA, n.d.a; UNOCHA, n.d.b.

70 IDMC, 2017.

71 Ibid.

72 See appendix A for details on the composition of Asia.

Figure 5. Migrants to Asia, within Asia and from Asia between 1990 and 2015



Source: UN DESA, 2015a.

Note: "Migrants to Asia" refers to migrants residing in the region (i.e. Asia) who were born in one of the other regions (e.g. Europe or Africa). "Migrants within Asia" refers to migrants born in the region (i.e. Asia) and residing outside their country of birth, but still within the Asian region. "Migrants from Asia" refers to people born in Asia who were residing outside the region (e.g. in Europe or Northern America).

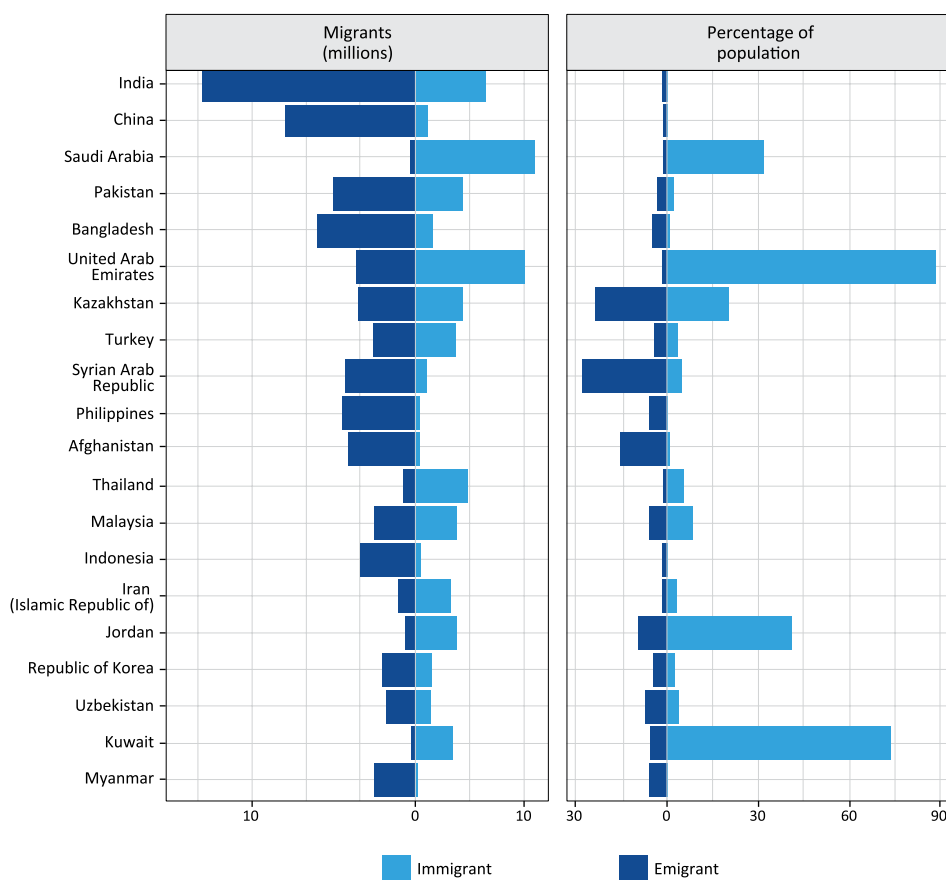
The number of non-Asian-born migrants in Asia has remained at relatively low levels. Europeans comprise the largest group of migrants from outside Asia in the region. These numbers include migrants from the European part of the former Soviet Union now living in Central Asia. During the same period, the number of Africans – the other sizable group of migrants in Asia – has grown.

The two Asian "population giants", India and China, have the largest absolute numbers of migrants living abroad (figure 6). It is important to add that these large absolute numbers of emigrants constitute small shares of the total populations of India and China. Migrants from China made up the fourth largest population of foreign-born migrants in the world after India, Mexico and the Russian Federation. Over two million Chinese-born emigrants resided in the United States, which was also home to other large Asian migrant groups from India, the Philippines and Viet Nam. Other countries with large numbers of migrants residing abroad include Bangladesh and Pakistan, many of whom are in GCC countries.

In GCC countries, migrants make up high proportions of the total national populations (figure 6). For example, in 2015, migrants accounted for 88 per cent of the population in United Arab Emirates; around 74 per cent in Kuwait; 76 per cent in Qatar; and 51 per cent in Bahrain.⁷³ Many migrants came from Africa, South Asia (e.g. India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal), and South-East Asia (e.g. Indonesia and the Philippines). Further discussion of labour migration, including to Gulf States, is outlined in the *key features and developments* section below.

It is also important to note that current data on foreign-born migrants also partly reflect significant historical events, such as the 1947 Partition resulting in the mass displacement of people from and to India and Pakistan. This is evident in 2015 data, which show that over 5.2 and 3.6 million foreign-born migrants (respectively) resided in the two countries.

Figure 6. Top 20 Asian migrant countries in 2015



Source: UN DESA, 2015a.

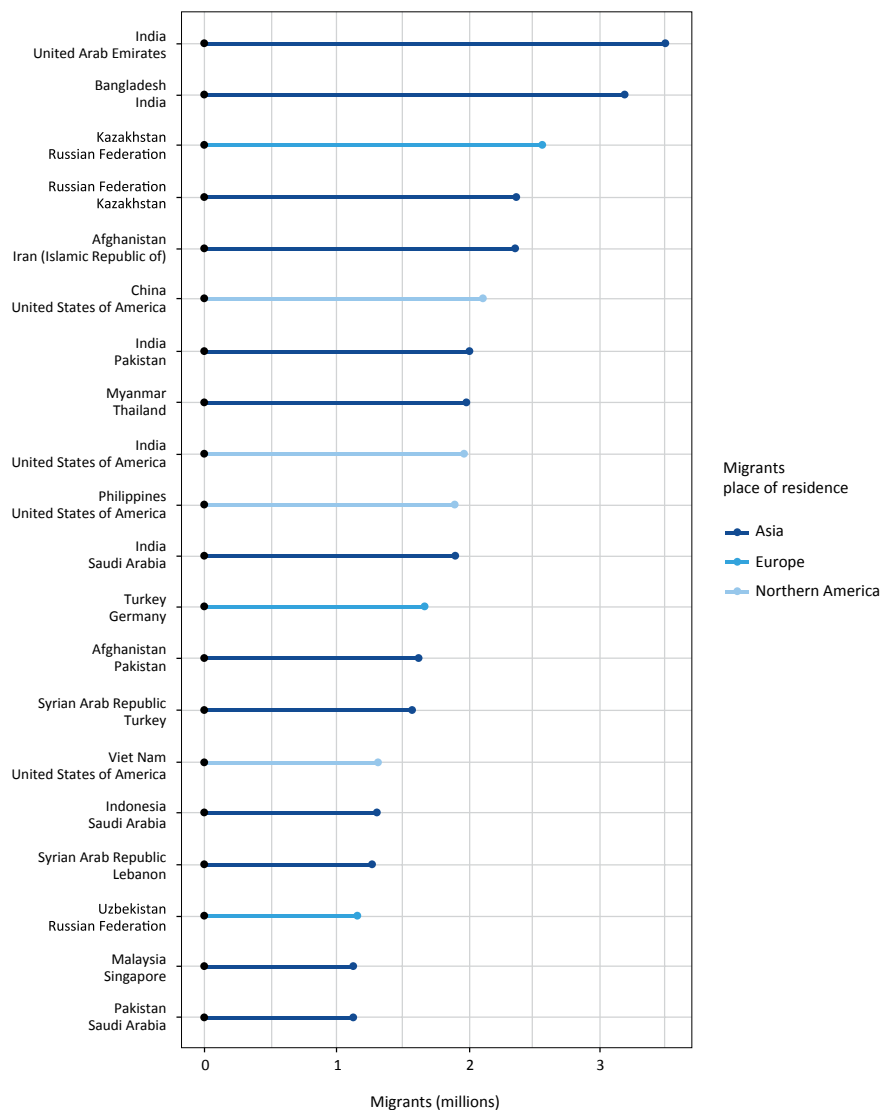
Note 1: The population size used to calculate the percentage of immigrants and emigrants is based on the UN DESA total resident population of the country, which includes foreign-born populations.

Note 2: "Immigrant" refers to foreign-born migrants residing in the country. "Emigrant" refers to people born in the country who were residing outside their country of birth in 2015.

Figure 7 shows the top 20 migration corridors from Asian countries, with most of them occurring within the region – 13 of the 20. They represent an accumulation of migratory movements over time and provide a snapshot of how migration patterns have evolved into significant foreign-born populations in specific destination countries. The largest corridor is from India to the United Arab Emirates, where 3.5 million Indians were residing in 2015.

Further discussion of selected migration corridors is included below in the key features and developments section.

Figure 7. Top 20 migration corridors from Asian countries

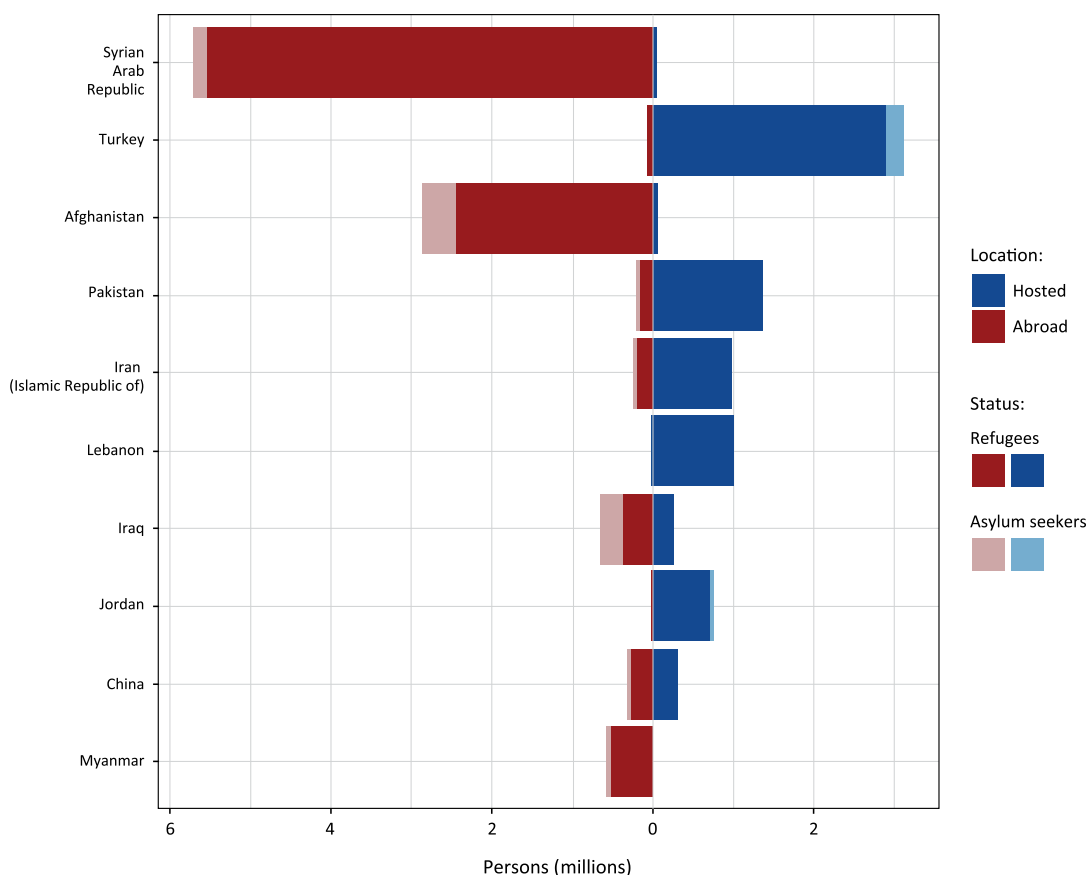


Source: UN DESA, 2015a.

Note: Corridors represent an accumulation of migratory movements over time and provide a snapshot of how migration patterns have evolved into significant foreign-born populations in specific destination countries.

International displacement within and from Asia is a major feature of the region, as shown in figure 8. Refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic and Afghanistan constituted more than a third of the world's refugees at the end of 2016. The impact of the Syrian conflict on displacement can be clearly seen in figure 8, with refugees and asylum seekers from the Syrian Arab Republic dwarfing numbers from Afghanistan. Afghanistan was previously the highest refugee-producing country in the region prior to the deepening of the Syrian conflict. In 2016, the vast majority of refugees from Asian countries lived in neighbouring countries. Refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic, for example, were predominantly hosted in Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan, while refugees from Afghanistan were in Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran. However, as shown in figure 8, it is also important to note that origin countries such as Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Iraq are also themselves hosting refugees.

Figure 8. Top 10 Asian countries by total refugees and asylum seekers, 2016



Source: UNHCR, n.d.a.

Note: "Hosted" refers to those refugees and asylum seekers from other countries who are residing in the receiving country (right-hand side of the figure); "abroad" refers to refugees and asylum seekers originating from that country who are outside of their origin country. Chapter 2 (appendix A) includes definitions of key terms such as "refugee". The top 10 countries are based on 2016 data and are calculated by combining refugees and asylum seekers in and from countries.

Key features and developments in Asia

Eastern Asia⁷⁴

- **Eastern Asia is in the midst of unprecedented demographic change, with several countries experiencing low fertility rates and ageing populations, leading to a reconsideration of immigration policies.** Countries such as Japan are already undergoing negative population growth, while the Republic of Korea has the lowest birth rate and the fastest-ageing population profile among OECD countries.⁷⁵ These demographic changes are expected to have significant implications for both social policy and long-term economic growth, particularly in relation to increasing health care costs and lower productivity levels, as the proportion of people of working age reduces.⁷⁶ These realities are prompting policymakers to reassess historically restrictive approaches toward immigration, which have been associated with a relatively high degree of cultural homogeneity in some countries, more limited experience in immigration policy compared with other regions and subregions, and the relative unpopularity of immigration in many countries.⁷⁷ Both the Republic of Korea and Japan, for example, are increasingly promoting temporary foreign labour immigration, with the Republic of Korea employing over 500,000 foreign workers under its General Employment Permit System by the end of 2015.⁷⁸
- **Migration in Eastern Asia is increasingly characterized by significant outward and inward student mobility.** The number of international students from Eastern Asia, particularly at tertiary level, has increased rapidly in recent years, while the number of foreign students within the subregion also continues to grow. Driven by the prospect of better-quality education, a high number of international students from Eastern Asia study in destinations such as the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom. In the academic year 2015/2016, China, the Republic of Korea and Japan were among the top 10 countries of origin of international students in the United States, with more than 300,000 students from China alone.⁷⁹ In 2014, of the world's total population of students studying abroad, one out of six were from China.⁸⁰ However, Eastern Asia is not only a major origin of international students, but is also gradually becoming an important destination for foreign students, many of them coming from within the subregion. More students from the Republic of Korea, for example, are choosing to study in China, with those from the Republic of Korea accounting for the largest number of international students in China in 2015.⁸¹ Japan plans to attract around 300,000 international students by 2020.⁸²
- **Outward labour migration, particularly from China, has meant that the subregion is one of the largest recipients of remittances in the world.** In 2015, Chinese-born international migrants were the fourth largest foreign-born population in the world after Indians, Mexicans and Russians, with nearly

74 See appendix A for details on the composition of Eastern Asia.

75 Moon, 2015.

76 World Bank, 2015.

77 Staedicke, Batalova and Zong, 2016.

78 Park, 2017.

79 IIE, 2016.

80 ICEF Monitor, 2015a.

81 Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China, 2015.

82 ICEF Monitor, 2015b.

10 million Chinese migrants living outside of China.⁸³ Global remittance flows in 2016 amounted to an estimated USD 575 billion, with China receiving USD 61 billion, the second largest share of remittances worldwide after India.⁸⁴

- **While this chapter is focused primarily on international migration, it is important to note that in this context, internal migration remains a very significant feature in East Asian countries, involving unprecedented movement of people from rural areas to urban centres.** This has most notably been the case in China, where the economic and social reforms of the 1980s⁸⁵ initiated one of the largest human migrations in history. Hundreds of millions of underemployed peasants left the countryside for the cities, driven by the prospect of employment opportunities and higher incomes.⁸⁶ Most people have migrated from China's Western provinces to its Eastern provinces. The socioeconomic dynamics between Western and Eastern China are important factors, with the West characterized by high population growth rates, a surplus of workers and lower incomes, while the East contends with a shortage of workers in metropolitan areas and boasts both higher incomes and education levels.⁸⁷

*Southern Asia*⁸⁸

- **Migration from Southern Asia to other subregions is a key feature, with many temporary migrant workers in the GCC countries originating from this subregion.** Since the 1970s, the oil-rich Gulf countries have been a major destination for a vast number of temporary labour migrants from South Asia. While India and Pakistan were initially the major origin countries of labour to GCC countries, the origin of migrant workers has since diversified, attracting workers from Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh.⁸⁹ Southern Asians currently make up the largest migrant labour workforce in GCC countries.⁹⁰ The prospects of higher wages and accessible employment opportunities have resulted in a significant increase in the number of people leaving the subregion in recent years.⁹¹ For countries in the subregion with significant labour surpluses, migration has relieved labour pressures, while helping to reduce poverty through remittances. Indeed, Southern Asia is among the largest recipients of remittances in the world. In 2016, remittance inflows to India amounted to USD 62.7 billion, the largest in the world; and in countries such as Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, remittances exceeded 5 per cent of GDP in the same year.⁹²
- **Migration within the subregion is a dominant feature in Southern Asia, driven by economic and labour market differentials.**⁹³ Intraregional movement, both regular and irregular, is related to strong common historical roots, geographic proximity, and cultural and kinship ties between countries.⁹⁴ In

83 UN DESA, 2015a.

84 World Bank, 2017.

85 *Hokou* is a household registration system devised to record and control internal migration (UN DESA, 2011).

86 Hu, 2012.

87 Hugo, 2015.

88 See appendix A for details on the composition of Southern Asia.

89 Oommen, 2015.

90 Ibid.

91 Doherty et al., 2014.

92 World Bank, 2017.

93 Srivastava and Pandey, 2017.

94 Ibid.

2015, just over 85 per cent of the 14.1 million international migrants in Southern Asia originated from other countries in the subregion.⁹⁵ Major migration corridors include Bangladesh–India, Afghanistan–Pakistan, India–Pakistan and Nepal–India. There are millions of Bangladeshi and Nepalese labour migrants working in India, for example, primarily in the informal sector as construction labourers and domestic workers.⁹⁶ Internal migration within Southern Asia countries is extensive and larger in scale than international migration, related primarily to temporary and seasonal migration from rural to urban areas.⁹⁷ Rural–urban migration in Southern Asia is substantial. Between 2001 and 2011, Southern Asia’s urban population grew by 130 million people, and is forecast to rise by almost 250 million more in the next 15 years.⁹⁸

- **Irregular migration both within and from the region is common in Southern Asia, and is often aided by loose smuggling networks.** While the exact number of people undertaking irregular migration within the region is not known, partly because of its relatively porous borders, there are estimated to be large irregular migrant populations within the region.⁹⁹ India, for example, is home to significant populations of irregular migrants from Bangladesh, Nepal, and to a lesser extent, Sri Lanka.¹⁰⁰ Additionally, Australia, Europe and the United States are all popular destinations for irregular migrants from the region.¹⁰¹ For those heading to Europe, migrants are primarily smuggled through Central Asia and the Russian Federation, as well as through the Middle East into the Western Balkans. Other irregular migrants are smuggled through to Malaysia, Thailand and Indonesia for work, or through these countries onwards to Australia.¹⁰² There have been many documented cases of migrants being exploited and abused by smugglers in Southern Asia, including rape, other forms of abuse, and forced starvation.¹⁰³
- **Long-standing conflict, political instability, violence, and repression have made Southern Asia both a significant source of displacement and a leading host of displaced populations.** In recent history, every country in the subregion (other than the Maldives) has been an origin or a host of displaced populations. Most notably, for over 30 years, large portions of Afghanistan’s population have been displaced internally, across immediate borders into neighbouring countries and further afield. At the end of 2016, there were 2.5 million Afghan refugees, the second largest refugee population in the world, and over 1.5 million IDPs, the tenth largest IDP population in the world; in effect, more than one in 10 Afghans were displaced.¹⁰⁴ The neighbouring countries of Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran hosted most Afghan refugees and accordingly, featured among the top host countries in the world.¹⁰⁵ Pakistan, with its porous border and close ethnic, linguistic, religious and economic ties, has been the major host for decades, with its nearly 1.4 million refugees at the end of 2016 almost exclusively

95 UN DESA, 2015a.

96 Srivastava and Pandey, 2017.

97 Ibid.

98 Ellis and Roberts, 2016.

99 Srivastava and Pandey, 2017.

100 Jayasuriya and Sunam, 2016.

101 Ibid.

102 Ibid.

103 Ibid.

104 UNHCR, 2017a; IDMC, 2017.

105 UNHCR, 2017a.

Afghans;¹⁰⁶ 2016 also saw a 12-year high in terms of returns, as over 380,000 Afghan refugees returned from Pakistan.¹⁰⁷ Returnees cited a range of interlinked reasons regarding their decision to return, including harassment and pressure by authorities, fears of arrest and deportation, economic hardship, perceptions relating to improvements in Afghanistan, return assistance packages, and a desire to reunite with family.¹⁰⁸ Returnees also face a range of reintegration challenges, including access to land and housing, employment and livelihoods, access to food and health, and insecurity.¹⁰⁹ At the end of 2016, the Islamic Republic of Iran hosted close to 1 million refugees, making it the fourth largest refugee host country in the world, while both India and Bangladesh continued to host large IDP populations.¹¹⁰

- **Southern Asian populations are particularly vulnerable to slow-onset and rapid-onset disasters related to natural hazards and climate change.** Insufficient infrastructure, high dependency on land resources, and highly dense populations living in vulnerable areas are underlying challenges that contribute to human displacement in the context of disasters.¹¹¹ In 2016, there were almost 3.6 million new internal displacements due to disasters in Southern Asia, with India, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka all featuring among the top 10 countries in the world for disaster-related displacements that year.¹¹² In Bangladesh, disasters such as Cyclone Mora in May 2017 displaced hundreds of thousands of people.¹¹³ In Nepal, disasters caused by the Gorkha and Udayapur earthquakes in 2015 led to immense internal displacement,¹¹⁴ while around half a million people were estimated to be displaced by severe flooding in Sri Lanka in May 2017.¹¹⁵ Migration and mobility are particularly important coping strategies in response to environmental change events in Southern Asia – including sea level rise, coastal erosion, flooding and groundwater depletion – all of which are considerable in the region.¹¹⁶

South-East Asia¹¹⁷

- **For many countries in South-East Asia, migration entails significant levels of both emigration and immigration, as well as transit migration.** Considerable income disparity in the subregion is a major factor underpinning the strong trend of people to migrate from lower-income countries to higher-income countries within (and beyond) the subregion. There are nearly 10 million international migrants within the subregion and just over 20 million total migrants from the subregion, 6.9 million of whom migrated to other countries within South-East Asia.¹¹⁸ The advanced economies of Malaysia and Singapore are notable destinations for migrants. There is also a strong geographic aspect to migration, with higher levels of migration occurring between countries sharing borders, particularly along Thailand's

¹⁰⁶ Ibid.

¹⁰⁷ UNHCR, 2017a; UNHCR, 2017b.

¹⁰⁸ UNHCR, 2017b; see also IOM, 2017b.

¹⁰⁹ IOM, 2017b; UNHCR, 2017b.

¹¹⁰ UNHCR, 2017a; IDMC, 2017. For internal displacement, more generally, see also, IOM DTM, particularly for Afghanistan, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

¹¹¹ IOM, 2016a.

¹¹² IDMC, 2017.

¹¹³ Solomon, 2017.

¹¹⁴ IOM, 2016a.

¹¹⁵ IOM, 2017a.

¹¹⁶ Climate and Development Knowledge Network, 2014b. See also Ionesco, Mokhnacheva and Gemenne, 2017.

¹¹⁷ See appendix A for details on the composition of South-East Asia.

¹¹⁸ UN DESA, 2015a.

border with neighbours Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar.¹¹⁹ Intraregional, long-term migration corridors are evident, which are mainly dominated by temporary labour migration, with smaller components of permanent (skilled and family) migration, student migration and forced migration.¹²⁰

- **Migration involves high proportions of irregular migration, mostly in relation to temporary labour migration, but also in response to protection issues and environmental change.**¹²¹ The prevalence of unauthorized entry and irregular migrant populations is linked to a number of aspects, including labour market regulation, industry/sector reliance on irregular migrants, human trafficking and migrant smuggling.¹²² Indeed, migrant smuggling is considered to be a widespread phenomenon within South-East Asia, and countries in the region are particularly focused on countering smuggling through bilateral cooperation, as well as through multilateral mechanisms such as ASEAN and the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime. Many migrants also transit the region using the services of smugglers.¹²³ Mixed migration flows (involving movements of people with and without international protection needs) occur as do migration flows underpinned by mixed motivations. Many migrants face exploitation in South-East Asia, stemming from their irregular status. Migrant workers in particular industries also face forced labour, exploitation and serious abuse (e.g. fishing, agriculture, construction and manufacturing).¹²⁴
- **There has been an absence, in more recent years, of large-scale acute displacement stemming from civil or transnational conflict, but there exist instead discrete long-term flows associated with systemic persecution and marginalization.** The largest populations of refugees in 2016 were hosted in Malaysia (92,000) and the largest origin country of refugees and people in refugee-like situations is Myanmar, at just over 490,000 in 2016.¹²⁵ However, the largest intraregional migration corridor based on foreign-born population data (see figure 7 in the Asian regional overview) is from Myanmar to Thailand, and relates both to displacement due to conflict and violence and to cross-border migration for income generation, family reunion and other reasons. Refugee resettlement of people from the region is mainly undertaken by “traditional” resettlement countries (e.g. United States, Canada, Australia) and there is little by way of “protection infrastructure” within the region.¹²⁶ There are also large populations of IDPs and stateless populations in the region, with six countries in the region hosting stateless populations (the largest of which is in Myanmar).¹²⁷
- **In early 2015, South-East Asia experienced a migration-related humanitarian crisis in the Bay of Bengal and Andaman Sea, when around 7,000 migrants became stranded at sea in dire conditions.**¹²⁸ Migrants were stranded on vessels abandoned by smugglers for several weeks, with

119 Hugo, 2014; Hatsukano, 2015.

120 Ibid.

121 Hickey, Narendra and Rainwater, 2013.

122 UNODC, 2015; Djafar and Hassan, 2012.

123 UNODC, 2015.

124 Gois, 2015.

125 UNHCR, n.d.a.

126 McAuliffe, 2016. “Protection infrastructure” encompasses domestic law, national policies as well as administrative practices on protection; see Sitaropoulos, 2000.

127 Southwick, 2015; UNHCR, n.d.a.

128 IOM, 2015a; Royal Thai Government, 2015.

several hundred having died during the crisis.¹²⁹ As the humanitarian crisis grew, countries in the region embarked on a series of bilateral and multilateral meetings to formulate an immediate response, including on the rescue, relief and temporary shelter of those in need. Subsequent meetings focused on longer-term responses such as protecting people at sea, preventing irregular migration and smuggling, addressing the root causes of movement, and creating livelihood opportunities for those at risk of displacement and irregular migration.¹³⁰

*Middle East*¹³¹

- GCC countries have some of the largest numbers of temporary labour migrants in the world.** Driven by oil wealth, GCC countries have undergone remarkable economic development over the last few decades, drawing both skilled and semi-skilled workers to various sectors, including construction, retail and domestic service. The increase in labour migration to GCC States has created tremendous demographic change in destination countries. Today, with the exceptions of Oman and Saudi Arabia, migrants make up the majority of the population in GCC countries – comprising 88 per cent of the population in the United Arab Emirates, 76 per cent in Qatar and 74 per cent in Kuwait.¹³² Labour migrants in GCC countries primarily originate from Asia, including from India, Bangladesh and Pakistan, as well as from regions such as North and sub-Saharan Africa. Income differentials between origin and destination countries are a key driver of migration, with the Gulf countries providing higher wages and greater employment opportunities to labour migrants.¹³³ Despite progress, regulation and protection of migrants' rights remain a challenge in the region. The Kafala sponsorship system,¹³⁴ which ties migrant workers to their employers and is practised across a number of GCC States, has also come under scrutiny. However, a number of Gulf States are gradually taking steps to reform the Kafala system to ensure enhanced mobility for migrant workers in the labour market.¹³⁵
- Civil conflict, intensification of sectarian violence and the proliferation of terrorism (particularly by Daesh) have resulted in extensive levels of internal and international displacement in the subregion in recent years.** Three countries in the subregion – the Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq and Yemen – are facing a “level 3 (L3) emergency” (the global humanitarian system's classification for the most severe, large-scale humanitarian crises) and are key contributors to the world's total displacement figures.¹³⁶ The conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic, in its seventh year in 2017, has displaced well over half of the country's population, with over 5.5 million refugees, over 6.3 million IDPs and over 184,000 asylum seekers at the end of 2016.¹³⁷ About 65 per cent of Syrians are now displaced.¹³⁸ Successive

129 IOM Missing Migrants Project, <http://missingmigrants.iom.int/latest-global-figures>.

130 McAuliffe, 2016.

131 See appendix A for details on the composition of the Middle East.

132 UN DESA, 2015b.

133 Jacobsen and Valenta, 2016.

134 “The Kafala system restricts family reunification for unskilled migrants, ties them to a single employer, disallows them from marrying locals, and enforces other restrictions on rights and movements so that migrants stay as transient workers in the Gulf countries” (Rahman, 2013).

135 ESCWA and IOM, 2015.

136 UNOCHA, n.d.c.

137 UNHCR, 2017a; IDMC, 2017

138 UNHCR, 2017a.

waves of displacement in Iraq – a feature since the beginning of the century – have continued and intensified in 2016 and into 2017. This has occurred in the context of efforts to retake territory and counter Daesh. Over 3 million Iraqis are displaced within the country, and numerous challenges and protection risks inhibit sustained return.¹³⁹ Yemen's political and security situation has continued to deteriorate, and the ensuing violence and volatility has left the country hosting almost 2 million IDPs at the end of 2016, down from 2.5 million at the end of 2015.¹⁴⁰ High rates of return and secondary displacement are also occurring in Yemen, with estimates indicating that during the 24-month period ending in March 2017, 10.4 per cent of Yemen's population have experienced displacement.¹⁴¹

- **The Middle East continues to host a significant share of the world's refugees.** As at the end of 2016, the Middle East subregion hosted over 45 per cent of all refugees globally, including the refugees registered with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).¹⁴² Neighbouring countries inevitably share a disproportionate burden when it comes to hosting people seeking refuge in other countries, and this dynamic is a key feature of contemporary displacement patterns in the region. As countries bordering the Syrian Arab Republic and the principal hosts of Syrian refugees, Turkey, Lebanon and Jordan are all among the top 10 host countries in the world in 2016 (Turkey is first, Lebanon third and Jordan seventh).¹⁴³ The depth of their responsibility is particularly apparent when the number of refugees in each country is compared against the national population – in Lebanon, one in six people was a refugee, in Jordan, one in 11, and in Turkey, one in 28 – ranking them the top three countries in the world under this measure.¹⁴⁴ Other countries in the region, including those affected by conflict, also host many refugees, including Yemen and Iraq, and even the Syrian Arab Republic.¹⁴⁵ The close to 5.3 million refugees registered with UNRWA are also located in the subregion.¹⁴⁶
- **Irregular migration within and from the region continues to pose challenges for migrants and States.** The very large numbers of Syrian refugees hosted in neighbouring countries, together with protracted conflict and the low probability of return to the Syrian Arab Republic, have seen refugees undertaking irregular migration onward to other countries, most notably those in Europe via the Eastern Mediterranean route. For example, Syrians departing from Turkey accounted for around half of the more than 850,000 who travelled to Greece by boat across the Aegean Sea in 2015; others were from Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan and a range of other countries.¹⁴⁷ Migrant smugglers have been instrumental in these movements, making significant profits, and at times engaging in abuse and exploitative practices.¹⁴⁸ There has been considerable political and public focus on the Eastern Mediterranean route during the last two years; discussion of the EU-Turkey statement is included in the Europe region below.

139 IDMC, 2017.

140 IDMC, 2017.

141 IOM, 2017g.

142 UNHCR, 2017a.

143 Ibid. At the end of 2016, Turkey hosted over 2.8 million refugees, Lebanon over 1 million and Jordan over 680,000.

144 Ibid.

145 Ibid.

146 UNRWA, n.d.

147 UNHCR, 2016b.

148 McAuliffe and Koser, 2015; İçduygu and Koser Akcapar, 2016.

Central Asia¹⁴⁹

- Migratory movements in Central Asia occur in large part out of the region, and most noticeably northward to the Russian Federation.** In 2015, for example, there were just under 5 million migrants born in Central Asia who were living in the Russian Federation.¹⁵⁰ In recent years, the economic slowdown and policy changes in the Russian Federation – including the imposition of re-entry bans on migrants for administrative infringements – have been partially responsible for a relative decline in migration from Central Asia. This has affected livelihoods and income generated through remittances, which are an important source of capital for the subregion.¹⁵¹ In response to changes in the Russian Federation, migrants have either returned to their country of origin, remained irregularly, or sought out alternative destinations, most notably Kazakhstan (see discussion below).¹⁵² People from Central Asia also migrate to Europe and China, where work and family ties are relatively strong. Germany, for example, was home to just over 1 million migrants from Kazakhstan in 2015, second only to the Russian Federation, where 2.56 million Kazakh-born people resided.¹⁵³
- Intraregional migration is a key feature in the region and is underpinned by geographic, cultural, economic, political and social links that are historical in nature.** Central Asia is home to millions of international migrants, mainly from within the region, but also from further afield. Migrants primarily originate from countries of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), many of which are current members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).¹⁵⁴ In 2015, Kazakhstan, for example, had a substantial foreign-born population (3.55 million), of whom 2.35 million were born in the Russian Federation.¹⁵⁵ Kazakhstan is now predominantly a country of transit and of immigration, attracting skilled workers from various countries and, increasingly, becoming a destination for migrant workers from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. In recent years, Central Asian countries have revised policies regulating intraregional migration, including through the conclusion of bilateral agreements on entry and readmission.¹⁵⁶ For example, the establishment of the Eurasian Economic Union in 2015 allows people from its Member States – including Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan – to move freely to live, work and study in other Member States of the Union.¹⁵⁷ Further cooperation is currently occurring in the region on enhancing the management of mixed flows, including on aspects related to border management, migrants' rights and protection, and irregular migration.¹⁵⁸ Both male and female migrant workers from Central Asia can be vulnerable to exploitation and abuse, particularly within informal employment such as construction, agricultural and domestic work.¹⁵⁹

149 See appendix A for details on the composition of Central Asia.

150 UN DESA, 2015a.

151 IOM, 2016c.

152 Ibid.

153 UN DESA, 2015a.

154 Ibid.

155 Ibid.

156 OSCE, 2016.

157 Russell, 2017.

158 IOM, 2016e.

159 IOM, 2016c.

- **Remittances play an important role in Central Asian economies, especially for the less developed countries in the region.** Two of the world's top 10 remittance-receiving countries relative to GDP are in the region – Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.¹⁶⁰ In Kyrgyzstan, remittances have been estimated to reduce the national poverty rate by 6–7 per cent.¹⁶¹ Remittance flows into Central Asian countries largely reflect migration patterns within and from the region, which are closely linked to work and income generation. Remittances from the Russian Federation, for example, have been substantial over time, aided by the relatively low transfer costs from the Russian Federation to the Central Asian countries. However, the recent economic slowdown and policy changes in the Russian Federation have had a negative impact on overall remittance flows. Between 2014 and 2015, remittance levels to Kyrgyzstan decreased by nearly 50 per cent, and by nearly 60 per cent to Uzbekistan, while personal money transfers from the Russian Federation to Tajikistan dropped by nearly 70 per cent during the same time period.¹⁶² Devaluation of the Kazakh tenge between 2015 and 2016 has also contributed to reduced remittance flows to several Central Asian countries, including Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.¹⁶³ The reductions are having a negative impact on communities, especially those that have a heavy reliance on remittances for basic needs, including food and shelter, such as in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan.¹⁶⁴ Households with family members working abroad are faced with a worsening of their living standard that might push some into poverty due to the decrease in money transfers. This issue is further exacerbated by a shortage of provisions to accommodate returned migrants' needs and furthering their potentials.¹⁶⁵

Europe¹⁶⁶

Almost one third of the world's international migrants (75 million) lived in Europe in 2015. Over half of these (40 million) were born in Europe, but are living elsewhere in the region, which has increased from 27 million in 1990 (figure 9). In 2015, European to European migration was the second largest regional migration corridor in the world (after Latin America and the Caribbean to Northern America). The population of non-European migrants in Europe reached over 35 million in 2015. Migrants born in Asia, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean experienced similar growth patterns over the past 25 years. Each grew steadily in the 1990s, more rapidly during the 2000s and finally slowing thereafter.

In 1990, there were roughly equal amounts of Europeans living outside Europe as non-Europeans living in Europe. However, unlike the growth in migration to Europe, the number of Europeans living outside Europe mostly declined during the last 25 years, except for the past five years when it rose back to just under 20 million (similar to the level in 1990). In 2015, European-born migrants living outside the continent were based primarily in Northern America. There was also some gradual growth of European migrants in Asia and Oceania between 2010 and 2015.

160 World Bank, 2017.

161 Slay, 2015.

162 IOM, 2016c. Note: numbers are measured in USD terms. Estimates based on data collected by Central Bank of the Russian Federation.

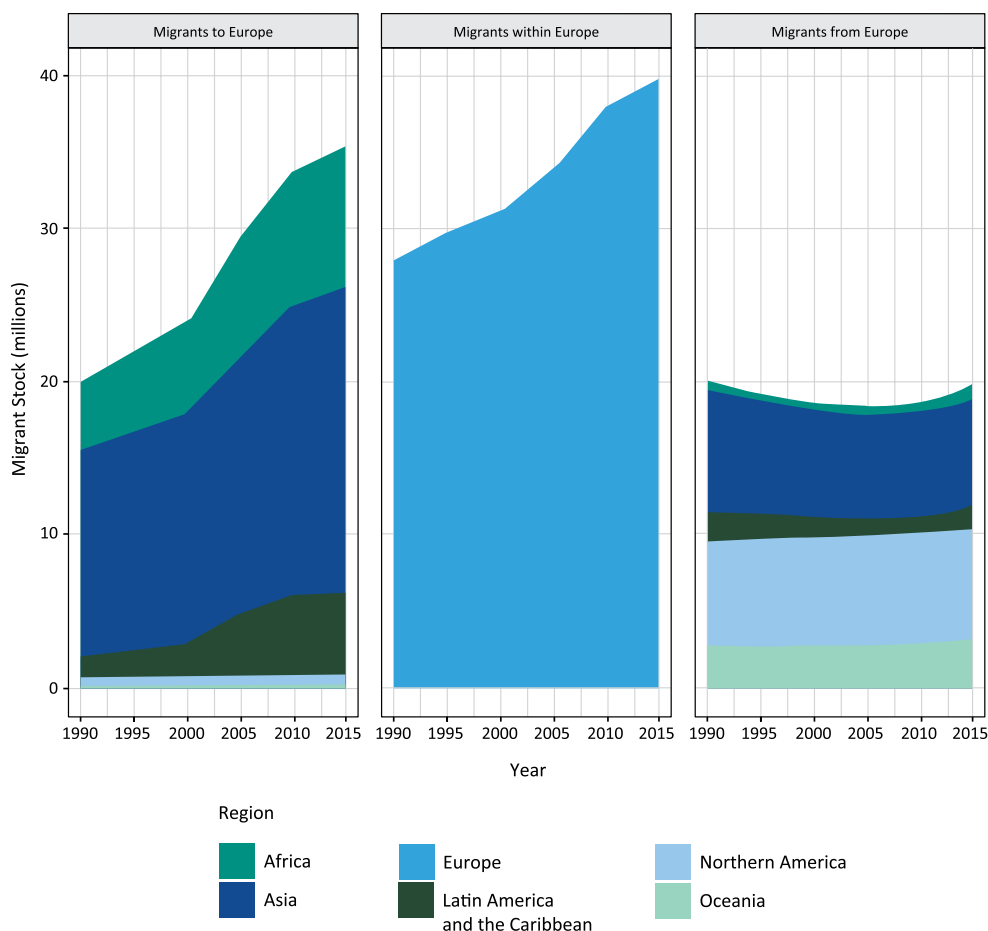
163 IOM, 2016c.

164 *The Economist*, 2016.

165 IOM, 2016c.

166 See appendix A for details of the composition of Europe.

Figure 9. Migrants to Europe, within Europe and from Europe between 1990 and 2015



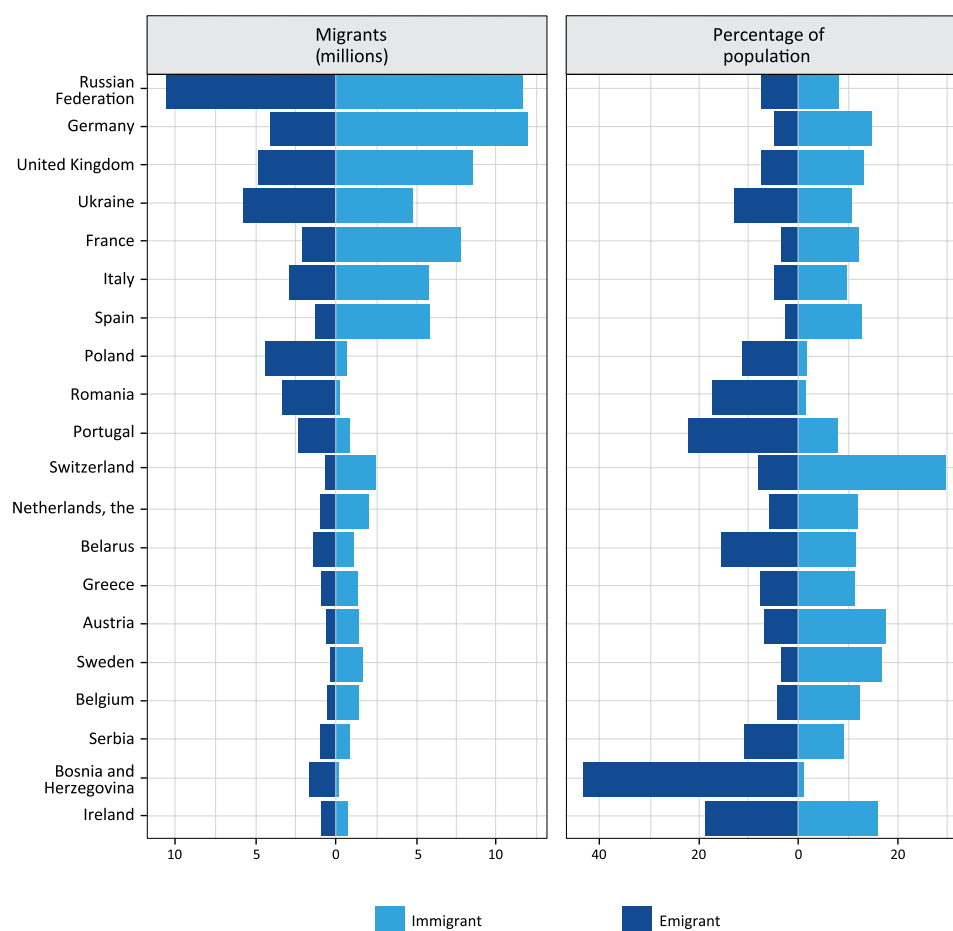
Source: UN DESA, 2015a.

Note: "Migrants to Europe" refers to migrants residing in the region (i.e. Europe) who were born in one of the other regions (e.g. Africa or Asia). "Migrants within Europe" refers to migrants born in the region (i.e. Europe) and residing outside their country of birth, but still within the European region. "Migrants from Europe" refers to people born in Europe who were residing outside the region (e.g. in Latin America and the Caribbean or Northern America).

Many countries in the east of Europe, such as the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Poland and Romania have some of the largest emigrant populations within the region (figure 10). At over 10 million emigrants in 2015, the Russian Federation had the third largest population of its citizens living abroad in the world. The migration of people from countries in the former USSR such as Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan and Belarus accounted for the top four European migrant corridors (see figure 11). After the Russian Federation and Ukraine, the United Kingdom had the third largest European emigrant population (4.9 million). Many of these lived outside the continent, in Australia and the United States of America. Bosnia and Herzegovina had the highest share of emigrants in comparison with the resident population in 2015, many of whom left during the breakup of the former Yugoslavia. Portugal and Ireland, two countries that have long histories of emigration, also had high shares of populations abroad in comparison with their population sizes.

In 2015, Germany had the largest foreign-born population in Europe. Of Germany's 12 million migrants, the largest groups came from Poland, Turkey, the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan, with each exceeding one million. The populations of France and the United Kingdom each included over 7.5 million foreign-born people in 2015. Migrants born in French-speaking North African countries made up some of the largest foreign-born populations in France. In the United Kingdom, the largest migrant populations were from India and Poland. With foreign-born populations in excess of 5.5 million, Spain and Italy were the fourth and fifth most popular migrant destinations in Europe in 2015. Many of the foreign-born populations in these countries came from elsewhere in Europe, such as Romania, Germany and the United Kingdom, or from North African countries such as Morocco. As illustrated in figure 10, of the top 20 migration countries in the region, Switzerland had the highest share of migrants in its population (29%) followed by Austria, Sweden and Ireland.

Figure 10. Top 20 European migrant countries in 2015



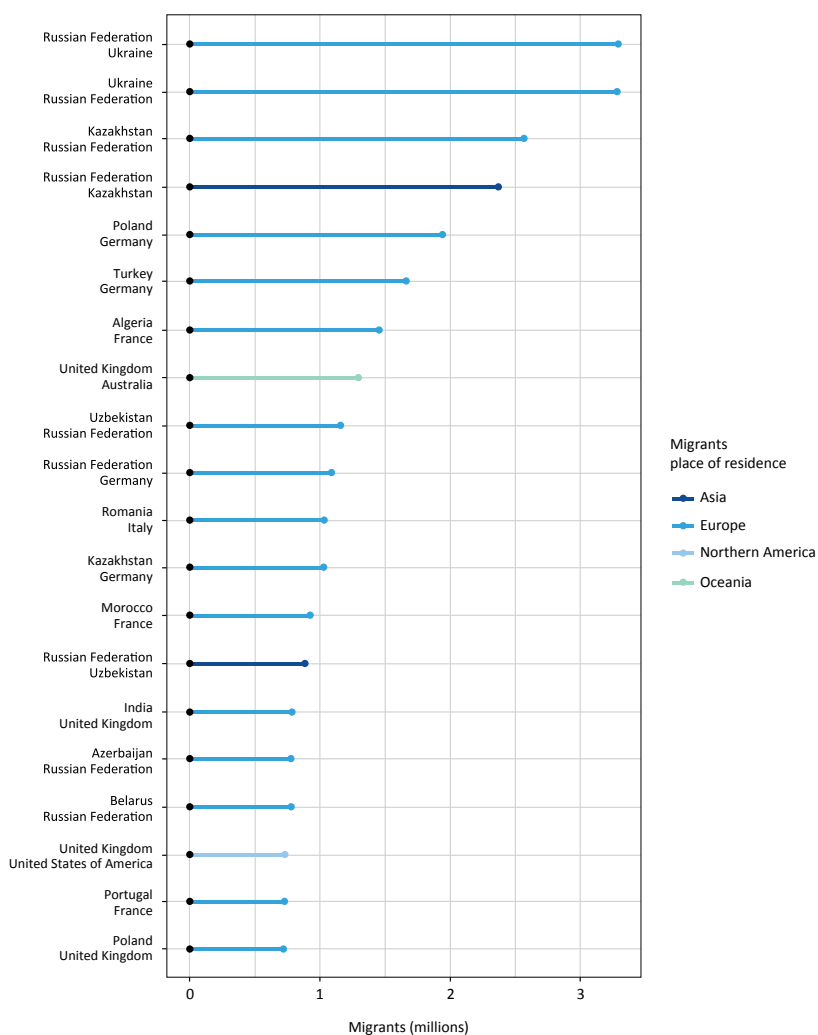
Source: UN DESA, 2015a.

Note 1: The population size used to calculate the percentage of immigrants and emigrants is based on the UN DESA total resident population of the country, which includes foreign-born populations.

Note 2: "Immigrant" refers to foreign-born migrants residing in the country. "Emigrant" refers to people born in the country who were residing outside their country of birth in 2015.

Figure 11 shows the top 20 migration corridors involving European countries, representing an accumulation of migratory movements over time, and providing a snapshot of how migration patterns have evolved into significant foreign-born populations in specific destination countries. One of the more striking features of the main migration corridors involving European countries is that most are intraregional corridors. The Russian Federation features heavily in the main corridors. Russian-born populations in former Member States of the USSR such as Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan form some of the largest European migrant corridors in 2015. The Russian Federation was also the second largest destination of migrants in Europe after Germany. Further discussion of migration corridors and recent changes are in the *key features and developments* section below.

Figure 11. Top 20 migration corridors involving European countries

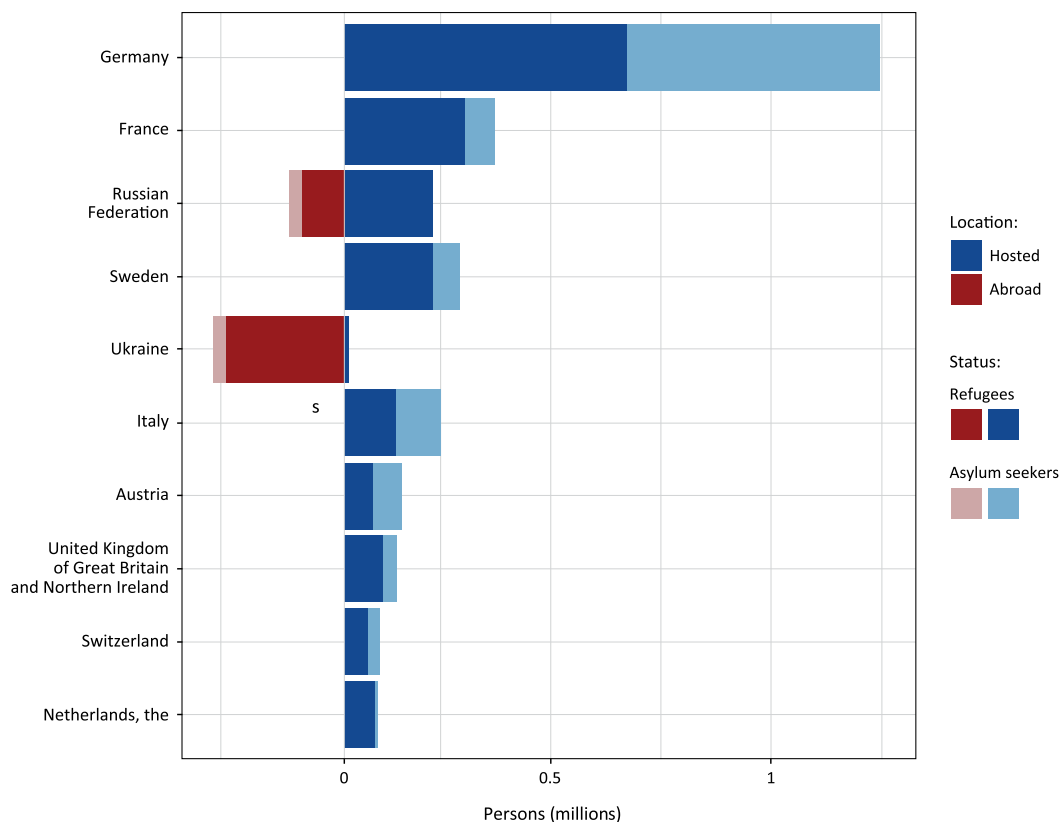


Source: UN DESA, 2015a.

Note: Corridors represent an accumulation of migratory movements over time and provide a snapshot of how migration patterns have evolved into significant foreign-born populations in specific destination countries.

In 2016, Germany hosted the largest population of refugees and asylum seekers in Europe, and close to half were asylum seekers (figure 12). Germany received the largest number of new asylum applications in Europe in 2016 (and globally), with most claims made by people from the Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq and Afghanistan. Some of the largest refugee populations in France and Austria were from the Russian Federation. In 2016, France was also host to sizable refugee populations from Sri Lanka and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Ukraine and the Russian Federation were the main European origin countries (figure 12). Over 220,000 Ukrainian refugees were in the Russian Federation, many moving after conflict commenced in 2013.

Figure 12. Top 10 European countries by total refugees and asylum seekers, 2016



Source: UNHCR, n.d.a.

Note: "Hosted" refers to those refugees and asylum seekers from other countries who are residing in the receiving country (right-hand side of the figure); "abroad" refers to refugees and asylum seekers originating from that country who are outside of their origin country. Chapter 2 (appendix A) includes definitions of key terms such as "refugee". The top 10 countries are based on 2016 data and are calculated by combining refugees and asylum seekers in and from countries.

Key features and developments in Europe

Northern, Western and Southern Europe¹⁶⁷

- **Intraregional migration is particularly dynamic in Europe.** As of 1 January 2016, there were 16 million persons living in one of the European Union (EU) Member States with the citizenship of another Member State.¹⁶⁸ Such a high degree of intraregional migration is made possible by free movement arrangements, which enable citizens to cross internal borders without being subjected to border checks. The border-free Schengen Area, which comprises 22 EU Member States and 4 non-EU Member countries, guarantees free movement to over 400 million citizens.¹⁶⁹ In 2016, Romania had the highest number of its citizens living abroad in other European Union and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries at around 3 million, followed by Poland, Italy, Portugal and the United Kingdom.¹⁷⁰ However, free movement in Europe faces challenges. From the second half of 2015, several Schengen Member States temporarily reintroduced border controls.¹⁷¹ There is also a degree of uncertainty following the June 2016 EU membership referendum in the United Kingdom about future migration settings arising from “Brexit” negotiations.
- **Migration issues have remained high on the European agenda in 2016 and 2017 and have regularly been tackled in ministerial and heads of State or government meetings.** Most migrants coming to Europe via the Mediterranean crossed by boat from Libya to Italy, or from Turkey to Greece through the Aegean Sea. In 2016, nearly 390,000 people arrived in Europe through the Mediterranean region by both land and sea,¹⁷² over 360,000 of whom arrived by sea.¹⁷³ Following the EU-Turkey Statement of 18 March 2016, the number of arrivals by sea in Greece dropped dramatically, reaching just over 170,000 in 2016, which was a significant decrease compared with the over 850,000 arrivals by sea to Greece in 2015.^{174,175} In 2016, over 180,000 migrants arrived in Italy by sea, a 16 per cent increase compared with 2015.¹⁷⁶ The Central Mediterranean route from Libya to Malta and Italy was by far the deadliest route for irregular migrants in the world in 2016, with estimates of over 4,500 fatalities and missing migrants – the largest number ever reported in the region.¹⁷⁷ Many more deaths at sea, but also along the different migratory routes, including while transiting through the Sahara Desert, were undoubtedly unreported.¹⁷⁸ Of the maritime arrivals to Europe in 2016, over half came from one of the world’s top 10 refugee-producing countries, particularly the Syrian Arab Republic, Afghanistan and Iraq.¹⁷⁹ Single women, as well as unaccompanied or separated children, represent a particularly vulnerable population of migrant arrivals. In 2016, 92 per cent of all children arriving through

167 See appendix A for details of the composition of Northern, Western and Southern Europe.

168 Eurostat, 2017a.

169 European Commission, n.d.a.

170 Eurostat, 2017a.

171 European Commission, n.d.b.

172 Arrivals identified in Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Italy and Spain (IOM, 2017d).

173 IOM, 2017d.

174 Among the Statement’s provisions was an agreement to return to Turkey “all new irregular migrants crossing from Turkey into Greek islands”. In addition, for every Syrian returned to Turkey, another Syrian was to be resettled from Turkey to the EU on the basis of existing commitments, which totalled up to a ceiling of 72,000 resettlement places (European Council, 2016).

175 IOM, 2017d.

176 IOM, 2017e.

177 IOM, n.d.b.

178 IOM, 2017f.

179 UNHCR, 2017f.

the Central Mediterranean were unaccompanied or separated children.¹⁸⁰ In 2016, more than 60,000 asylum applications were submitted by unaccompanied children in EU Member States.¹⁸¹

- **Arrivals of large numbers of migrants and refugees to Europe via the Mediterranean was at times met with anti-migrant rhetoric in the political discourse, policies and media.** All in all, the perception of migrants in many European societies has tended to be negative: migration of people from outside the EU evoked a negative feeling for a majority of Europeans (56%) in a May 2015 survey.¹⁸² Across 10 European countries, an average of 56 per cent of the public stated that all further migration from mainly Muslim countries should be stopped.¹⁸³ Many Europeans largely overestimate the number of migrants and Muslims in their country.¹⁸⁴ These negative perceptions towards migrants can have concrete implications. As of November 2016, the EU's Agency for Fundamental Rights indicated that violence, harassment, threats and xenophobic speech targeting asylum seekers and migrants remain grave, be they committed by State authorities, private companies or individuals, or vigilante groups.¹⁸⁵ The persistence of negative perceptions towards migration has created challenges for governments' efforts to promote integration. Yet, forecast labour and skill shortages in the short to medium term will challenge both employment and economic growth prospects for the EU. For instance, population projections estimate a loss of more than 19 million people in the EU labour supply between 2023 and 2060.¹⁸⁶ In the context of an aging European population, migrants can make an important economic contribution if they are well integrated in a timely manner, starting with early integration into education and the labour market.

South-Eastern and Eastern Europe¹⁸⁷

- **For most South-Eastern and Eastern European countries, emigration rather than immigration has been the key feature over recent years and decades, with fairly low levels of immigration compared with other subregions of Europe.** Due to this and other factors, several countries in the region are projected to experience very significant population decline by 2050 (including Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Romania, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine).¹⁸⁸ Emigration from Eastern European countries to Western Europe has been a growing trend, particularly since the expansion of the European Union in both 2004 and 2007 to encompass more Eastern European Member States, while extending the external borders of the European Union outward towards non-member countries in the East.¹⁸⁹ More recently, this trend has been reinforced by the economic slowdown in the Russian Federation (see below). South-Eastern European countries have traditionally been countries of emigration, primarily to the European Union. South-Eastern European countries have also been migrant transit countries, particularly along the "Western Balkans route".
- **The Russian Federation remains the major destination country in the subregion (and one of the most significant in the world).** In 2015, the country hosted over 11.6 million international migrants.¹⁹⁰

180 UNHCR, UNICEF and IOM, 2017.

181 Eurostat, 2017b.

182 European Commission, 2015.

183 From a survey conducted between December 2016 and February 2017 (source: Raines, Goodwin and Cutts, 2017). Countries surveyed include Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Spain and the United Kingdom.

184 Ipsos MORI, 2016.

185 European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, 2016.

186 European Commission, 2014.

187 See appendix A for details on the composition of South-Eastern and Eastern Europe.

188 UN DESA, 2015b.

189 European Commission, 2007.

190 UN DESA, 2015a.

Most immigrants have come from neighbouring countries, most notably the CIS¹⁹¹ members, although the recent economic slowdown and changes in immigration policies in the Russian Federation have seen migrant inflows and remittances outflows fall compared with previous years.¹⁹² In 2015, Ukraine also had a significant foreign-born population at over 4.8 million, with migrants originating in large part from the Russian Federation, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and the Republic of Moldova.¹⁹³ However, conflict in Eastern Ukraine and an overall economic decline in the country are likely to result in a decrease in the total foreign-born population in Ukraine in the next release of international migrant statistics by UN DESA.

- **Displacement within and from the region witnessed an increase in recent years, mainly as a direct result of the protracted conflict in Eastern Ukraine.** As of 2016 there were an estimated 1.7 million IDPs in Ukraine.¹⁹⁴ Protracted insecurity in Eastern Ukraine has also generated an outflow of migrants and refugees to neighbouring states and to the European Union. In 2015, the global number of Ukrainian refugees peaked at over 320,000¹⁹⁵, and remained high in 2016, declining to just under 240,000.¹⁹⁶ A large number of Ukrainians have also applied for asylum in the Russian Federation, where Ukrainian asylum applications accounted for 98 per cent of the country's total for 2015.¹⁹⁷ To put this in context, the Russian Federation received around 85 per cent of all asylum applications made by Ukrainians worldwide in 2015; 175,500 were made by Ukrainians globally.¹⁹⁸ In addition, an increasing number of Ukrainians left the country as migrant workers, particularly to Poland. These developments have further added to an already significant IDP population in the region, notably in the Western Balkans and the South Caucasus, many of whom are in protracted situations as a result of the conflict/displacement events of the late 1980s and the 1990s.
- **In 2015 and early 2016, there was a sharp increase in transit migration from and through Turkey and the Western Balkans, particularly via the Eastern Mediterranean and the Western Balkans routes to reach countries in the north of the EU (primarily Austria, Germany and Sweden).** This brought the level of mixed migration through these routes to record levels and increased the number of asylum seekers and vulnerable migrants in the region. The subsequent establishment of border restrictions along the Western Balkans route, followed by the EU-Turkey Statement adopted on 18 March 2016, led to a significant drop in the number of people moving along the Western Balkans route.¹⁹⁹ However, the closure of the route has left more than 70,000 people stranded.²⁰⁰ This situation is linked to increased vulnerability of migrants to abuse, exploitation or practices that may amount to human trafficking.²⁰¹ In this context, as migrants could no longer rely on transportation provided by the authorities in the Western Balkans after the closure of the route, smuggling of migrants remains a major challenge.²⁰²

191 The Commonwealth of Independent States consists of nine Member States: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, as well as two associate States: Turkmenistan and Ukraine.

192 IOM, 2016c.

193 UN DESA, 2015a.

194 IDMC, 2017.

195 UNHCR, 2016c.

196 UNHCR, 2017a.

197 UNHCR, 2016c.

198 Ibid.

199 Frontex, 2017.

200 IOM, 2016b.

201 IOM, 2017f.

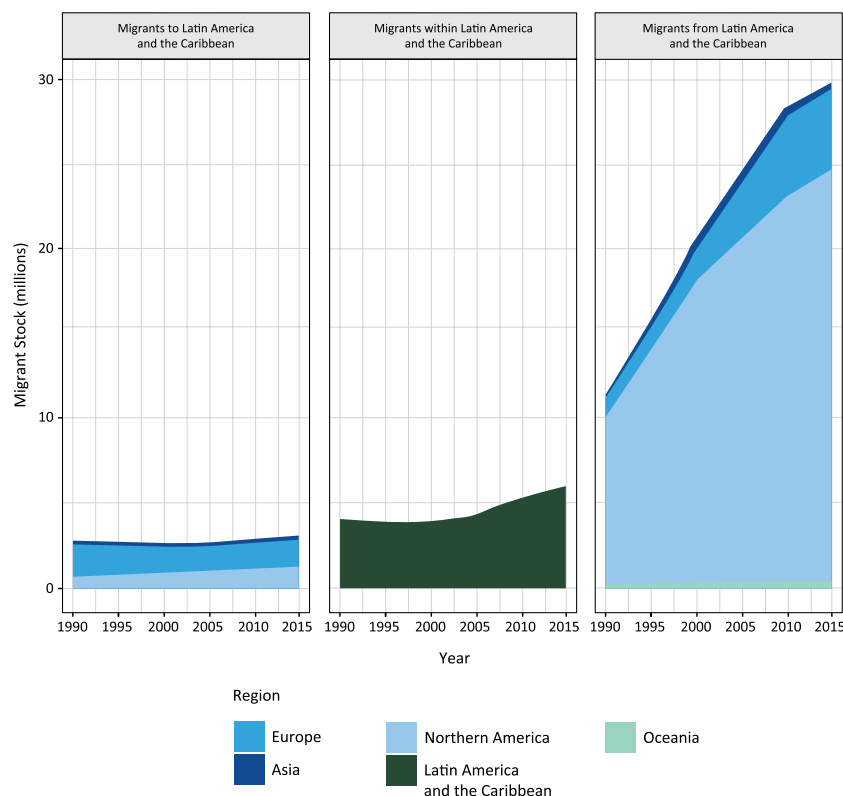
202 Frontex, 2016.

Latin America and the Caribbean²⁰³

A key feature in the Latin America and the Caribbean region is migration to Northern America. In 2015, nearly 25 million migrants had made the journey north and were residing in Northern America. As shown in Figure 13, the Latin American and the Caribbean population living in Northern America has increased considerably over time, from an estimated 10 million in 1990 to just under 25 million in 2015. Another 4.6 million were in Europe, an increase from 1.1 million in 1990.

The total number of migrants from other regions living in Latin America and the Caribbean has remained relatively stable, at around three million over the last 25 years. These were comprised mostly of Europeans (whose numbers have declined slightly over the period) and Northern Americans, whose numbers have increased.

Figure 13. Migrants to, within and from in Latin America and the Caribbean between 1990 and 2015



Source: UN DESA, 2015a.

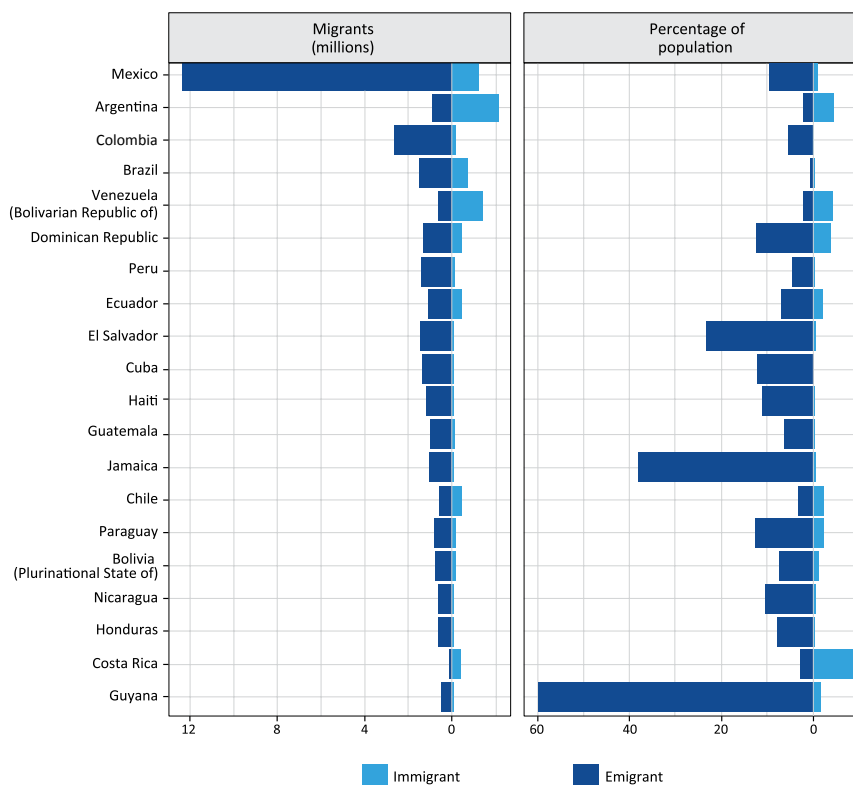
Note: "Migrants to Latin America and the Caribbean" refers to migrants residing in the region (i.e. Latin America and the Caribbean) who were born in one of the other regions (e.g. in Europe or Asia). "Migrants within Latin America and the Caribbean" refers to migrants born in the region (i.e. Latin America and the Caribbean) and residing outside their country of birth, but still within the Latin America and the Caribbean region. "Migrants from Latin America and the Caribbean" refers to people born in Latin America and the Caribbean who were residing outside the region (e.g. in Europe or Northern America).

203 See appendix A for details of the composition of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Mexico was by far the largest emigration country in Latin America and the Caribbean (figure 14). Over 12.5 million people born in Mexico lived abroad in 2015, making it the second largest migrant origin country in the world after India. Most Mexican emigrants lived in the United States, which continues to be the largest country-to-country migration corridor in the entire world (figure 15). Many other Central American countries such as El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras also have large migrant populations in the United States, as do South American countries such as Colombia, Ecuador, Brazil and Peru. Large populations of South American migrants resided elsewhere in the region. In 2015, almost 1 million Colombians lived in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, although more recent events (discussed below in the key features and developments section) have seen migration patterns change in recent years.

Argentina was home to the largest foreign-born population in the region (with over 2 million migrants), mainly from neighbouring countries such as Paraguay and Plurinational State of Bolivia. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela had the next largest migrant population, followed by Mexico and Brazil. In Mexico, there were 880,000 American-born migrants. As illustrated in figure 14, of the top 20 migration countries in the region, Costa Rica had the highest immigrant share of its total population (almost 9%), due to longstanding migration from neighbouring Nicaragua. Other countries in the region outside of the top 20 had higher migrant populations as a proportion of the total population, such as Belize at 15 per cent.

Figure 14. Top 20 Latin America and the Caribbean migrant countries in 2015



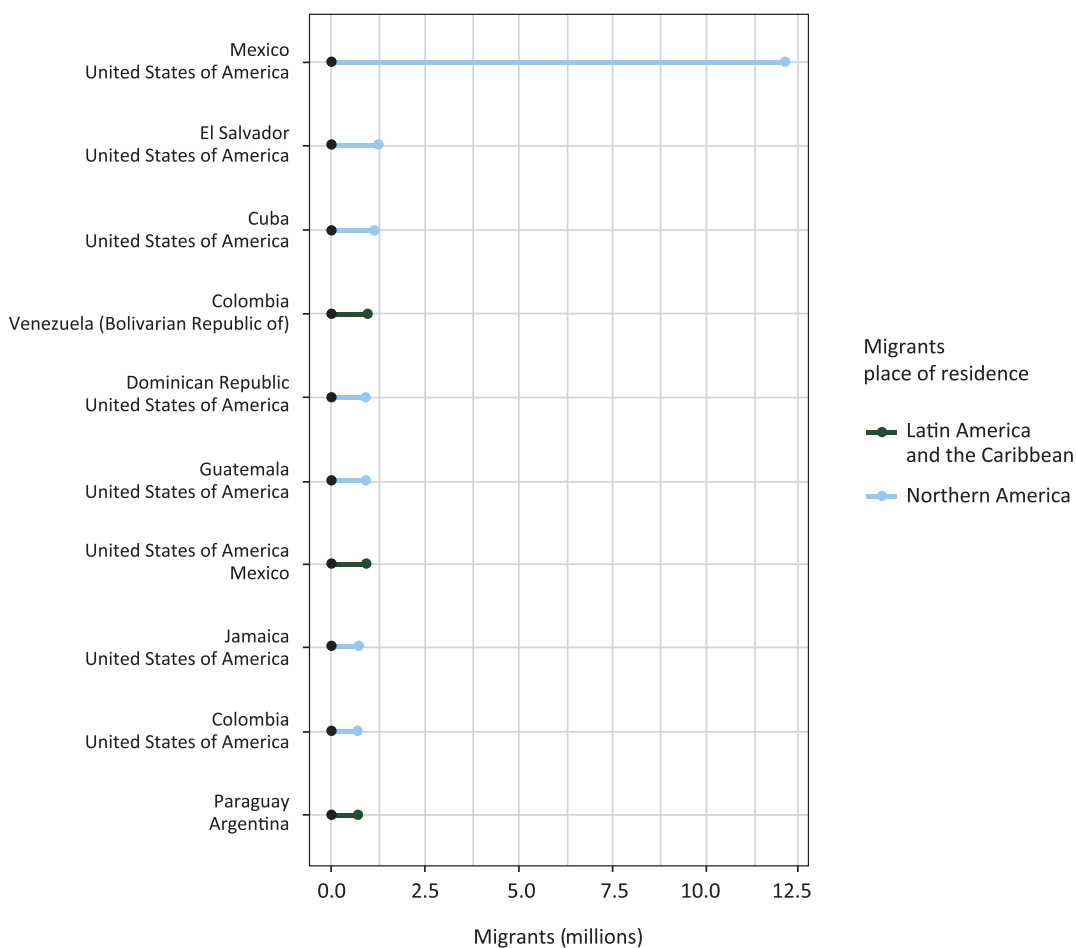
Source: UN DESA, 2015a.

Note 1: The population size used to calculate the percentage of immigrants and emigrants is based on the UN DESA total resident population of the country, which includes foreign-born populations.

Note 2: "Immigrant" refers to foreign-born migrants residing in the country. "Emigrant" refers to people born in the country who were residing outside their country of birth in 2015.

The most striking feature of the main migration corridors within and from the region (figure 15) is the dominance of the United States as the main country of destination. Most of the corridors are to the United States, with the remainder all occurring within the Latin American and Caribbean region (e.g. Colombia to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela). These migration corridors represent an accumulation of migratory movements involving countries in Latin America and the Caribbean over time, and provide a snapshot of how migration patterns have evolved into significant foreign-born populations in specific destination countries.

Figure 15. Top 10 migration corridors involving Latin America and the Caribbean countries

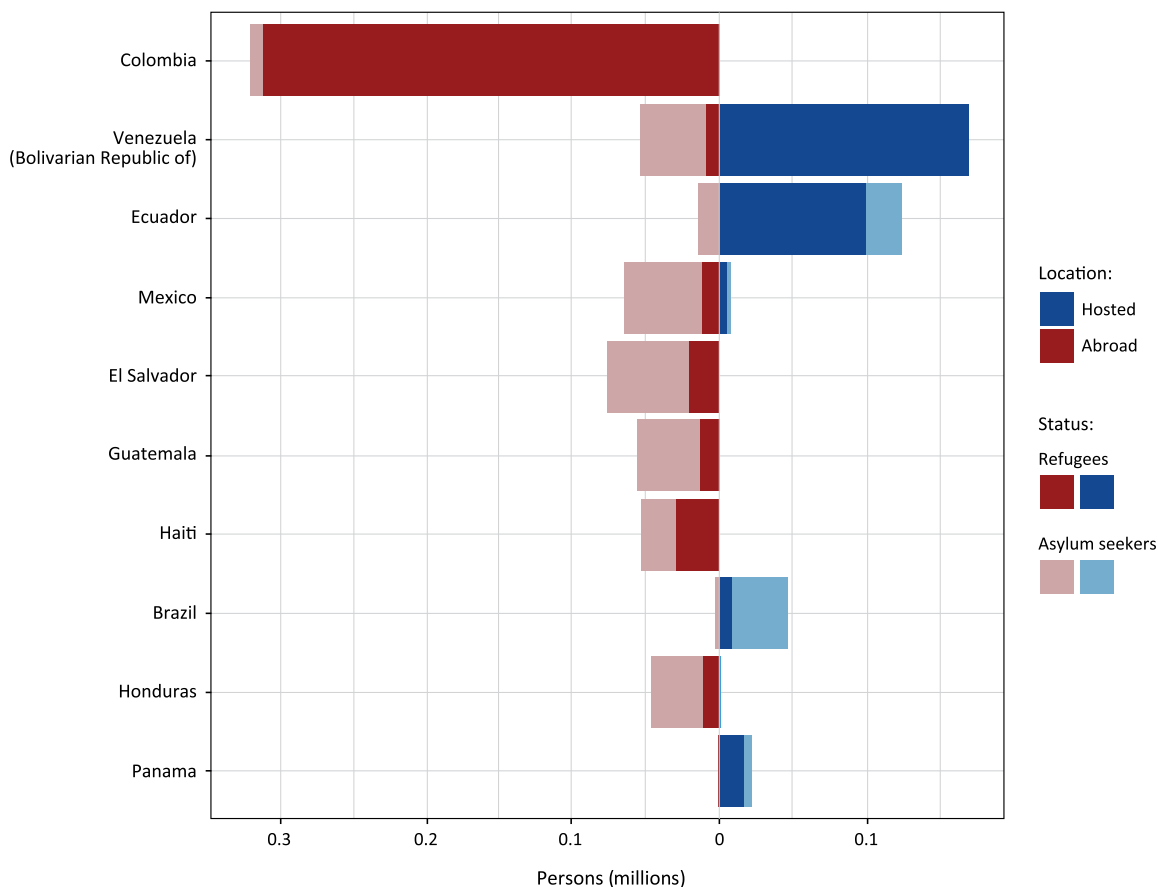


Source: UN DESA, 2015a.

Note: Corridors represent an accumulation of migratory movements over time and provide a snapshot of how migration patterns have evolved into significant foreign-born populations in specific destination countries.

In 2016, Colombia was the largest origin of refugees in the Latin America and Caribbean region, driven by long-standing internal conflict. Most of the refugees from Colombia were hosted in neighbouring Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Ecuador. Haiti is the second largest origin of refugees in the region; it was also the origin of more than 20,000 asylum seekers, while Mexico was the origin of 64,000, followed by El Salvador (62,000), Guatemala (46,000), Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (45,000) and Honduras (35,000). Many of these asylum seekers were in the United States.

Figure 16. Top 10 Latin America and Caribbean countries by total refugees and asylum seekers, 2016



Source: UNHCR, n.d.a.

Note: "Hosted" refers to those refugees and asylum seekers from other countries who are residing in the receiving country (right-hand side of the figure); "abroad" refers to refugees and asylum seekers originating from that country who are outside of their origin country. Chapter 2 (appendix A) includes definitions of key terms such as "refugee". The top 10 countries are based on 2016 data and are calculated by combining refugees and asylum seekers in and from countries.

Key features and developments in Latin America and the Caribbean

*Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean*²⁰⁴

- **Migration northward is the predominant trend in Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean, although there are a number of intraregional trends worth noting.** Mexico remains a prominent origin country, with thousands emigrating mainly to the United States each year. It is also a significant transit country for migrants travelling northward to the southern United States border. However, within a context of improving economic conditions and rising educational levels in the country, as well as stricter immigration enforcement in the United States, Mexico is an increasingly significant destination country for international migrants. The total number of foreign-born persons in Mexico increased from around 970,000 in 2010 to nearly 1.2 million in 2015 – a majority of whom were Americans, but also an increasingly larger portion of whom were migrants from other Latin American and Caribbean countries.²⁰⁵ However, the United States is by far the most popular destination of Central American migrants – 78 per cent of Central American migrants lived in the United States in 2015, with 15 per cent residing in other countries in the region and in Mexico.²⁰⁶ The most prominent intraregional migrant corridors involve Nicaraguans, Panamanians and other Central Americans moving to Costa Rica for temporary or permanent labour, and Central Americans (primarily from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador) migrating to Belize because of instability and a lack of employment opportunities.²⁰⁷ In the Caribbean, the most prominent intraregional migrant corridors include Haitians migrating to the Dominican Republic.²⁰⁸
- **Irregular migrant flows in the region are shifting and becoming increasingly diversified.** Mexicans represented the vast majority of irregular migrants apprehended while attempting to cross the United States–Mexico border for many years. However, in 2014, and again in 2016, apprehensions of Central Americans originating from the “Northern Triangle” region of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador exceeded that of Mexicans at the United States–Mexico border.²⁰⁹ Additionally, flows of irregular migrants through Central America and Mexico have diversified considerably to include large numbers of Caribbean migrants, as well as a growing number of Asians and Africans. Overall, there were over 55,000 apprehensions of non-Latin Americans at the United States–Mexico border in fiscal year 2015.²¹⁰ Over 6,000 “inadmissible” Haitian migrants reached south-western United States border ports of entry in fiscal year 2015, while nearly 8,000 African and Asian migrants arrived at Mexican immigration checkpoints in the first half of 2016, representing a substantial increase over previous years.²¹¹
- **New and diversified flows throughout the region have prompted a response by transit and destination countries to increase border enforcement and protection.** In response to increasing irregular migrant flows, particularly of Cubans and Haitians, Nicaragua closed its southern border in November 2015, while Costa Rica closed its border to Cubans in December 2015 and later to all irregular

204 Please see appendix A for details of the composition of Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean.

205 UN DESA, 2015a.

206 Lesser and Batalova, 2017.

207 ILO, 2016.

208 Ibid.

209 Gonzalez-Barrera and Krogstad, 2016.

210 Bolter, 2017.

211 Ibid.

migrants in August 2016.²¹² Further, Mexico implemented its “Southern Border Plan” in 2014 to reduce irregular migrant flows from Central America. Between 2013 and 2015, the number of apprehensions by Mexican authorities increased from over 86,000 to over 198,000.²¹³ Migrant smuggling is also a major feature of the region, as people attempt to bypass border controls in Central America and Mexico. Along the United States–Mexico border, smuggling networks are a profitable industry overseen by international crime groups.²¹⁴ Smuggled migrants are known frequently to fall victim to predatory practices ranging from demands for bribes to mass kidnapping and extortion.²¹⁵ There appears to be low risk of arrest for the smugglers, many of whom pretend to be irregular migrants themselves and are often repatriated as opposed to apprehended.²¹⁶

- **Socioeconomic conditions and generalized community-level violence in a number of Central American countries contribute to migration, notably of high numbers of women and children.** The United States received over 250 per cent more asylum claims from the “Northern Triangle” countries (El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala) in 2015 compared with 2013, and twice the number of 2014.²¹⁷ The number of unaccompanied children migrating from Central America has also risen substantially, with a 1,200 per cent increase in unaccompanied minor children apprehended at the United States–Mexico border between fiscal years 2011 and 2014.²¹⁸ Additionally, the number of asylum applications lodged in Mexico has risen substantially in recent years, increasing by 155 per cent from over 3,400 in 2015 to nearly 8,800 in 2016.²¹⁹

*South America*²²⁰

- **Intraregional migration within South America has intensified.** Overall, the number of intraregional migrants in South America increased by 11 per cent between 2010 and 2015, and approximately 70 per cent of all immigration in the region is intraregional.²²¹ Fueled by economic and labour market disparities between countries, a majority of the region’s migrants move for work.²²² Notably, South American economic restructuring, as well as increased demand for female migrants by service and care sectors, have also led to the feminization of intraregional movement.²²³ Southern Cone countries of Chile, Argentina and Brazil – which all witnessed increases of between 16 and 20 per cent in migrant populations between 2010 and 2015 – have some of the largest migrant populations in South America, attracting labour migrants from the Andean countries, as well as Paraguay.²²⁴ The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is home to a large number of intraregional migrants from Colombia and Ecuador.²²⁵ In the context of increased intraregional migration,

²¹² Ibid.

²¹³ WOLA, 2016.

²¹⁴ UNODC, n.d.

²¹⁵ Sanchez, 2016.

²¹⁶ UNODC, n.d.

²¹⁷ Sturm, 2016.

²¹⁸ Meyer et al., 2016.

²¹⁹ Luna, 2017.

²²⁰ Please see appendix A for details of the composition of South America.

²²¹ IOM, 2017c.

²²² Ibid.

²²³ Cerruti, 2009.

²²⁴ IOM, 2017c.

²²⁵ UN DESA, 2015a.

subregional blocs such as the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR), as well as the Andean Community of Nations (CAN), have made notable efforts to liberalize intraregional migration. For example, MERCOSUR Residence Agreements have led to enhanced labour migration and a decrease in irregular migration within the region.²²⁶

- **Millions of South Americans continue to reside outside of the region, while at the same time the number of migrants from outside the region is slowly growing.** Emigration from South America is mostly related to work, fuelled by economic crises and political instability in origin countries.²²⁷ The United States and Spain are the two largest destination countries of South American migrants, with 2.8 million and 1.8 million migrants residing in these two countries respectively.²²⁸ The countries with the highest numbers of emigrants residing outside of South America in 2015 were Colombia (around 1.4 million emigrants), followed by Brazil (1.3 million extraregional emigrants) and Ecuador (over 1 million extraregional emigrants).²²⁹ At the same time, reduced opportunities in labour markets abroad, as well as improved economic conditions in the region, are contributing to the return of many South American migrants and a decrease in the rate of extraregional migration.²³⁰ The number of migrants in South America from outside the region is also growing. For example, since 2010, more people have emigrated from the European Union to Latin America and the Caribbean overall, than from Latin America and the Caribbean to the European Union.²³¹ Many of these people are not return migrants, but rather European Union nationals primarily from Spain, Italy and Portugal.²³² Migrants from these three origin countries collectively represented a population of over 700,000 people in South America in 2015.²³³ Increased numbers of Haitians, Cubans and Dominicans have also migrated to South America.²³⁴
- **Though localized to particular countries, conflict and violence contribute to human displacement and migration in the region.** In Colombia, over 7.2 million people remained internally displaced as of the end of 2016 – higher than any other country in the world.²³⁵ By the end of 2016, over 300,000 Colombians were living as refugees or in refugee-like situations abroad.²³⁶ There were also nearly 1.2 million Colombians in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Ecuador in 2015. However, as Colombia begins to transition out of five decades of violence with peace talks in late 2016 and 2017, deteriorating economic and social conditions in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela are leading many Colombians to return home, while many Venezuelans continue to leave their country, both across the border to Colombia and elsewhere.²³⁷ Asylum applications lodged by Venezuelans in the United States, for example, increased by 168 per cent between fiscal 2015 and 2016,²³⁸ and from a total of 27,000 worldwide in 2016 to nearly 50,000 in the first half of 2017 alone.²³⁹

226 Acosta, 2016.

227 IOM, 2017c.

228 UN DESA, 2015a.

229 Ibid.

230 IOM, n.d.a.

231 IOM, 2015b.

232 Ibid.

233 UN DESA, 2015a.

234 IOM, 2017c.

235 IDMC, 2017.

236 UNHCR, 2017a.

237 Carvajal, 2017.

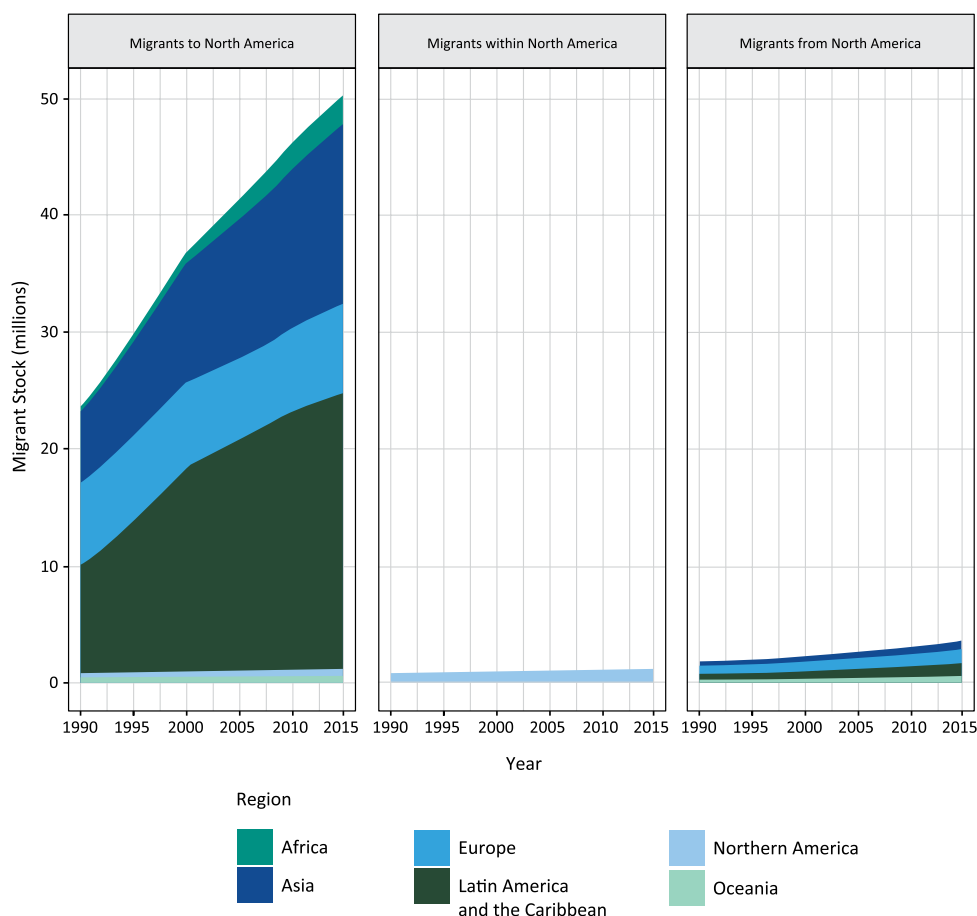
238 Krogstad and Lopez, 2016.

239 UNHCR, 2017e.

Northern America²⁴⁰

Migration in Northern America is dominated by migration into the region. As shown in figure 17, over 51 million migrants were residing in Northern America from a variety of regions in 2015. The largest group was from Latin America and the Caribbean (25 million), followed by Asia (15.5 million) and Europe (7.5 million). During the last 25 years, the number of migrants in Northern America has almost doubled in size, driven by population growth in Latin American and the Caribbean, and Asia, as well as by economic growth and political stability in Northern America.

Figure 17. Migrants to, within and from Northern America between 1990 and 2015



Source: UN DESA, 2015a.

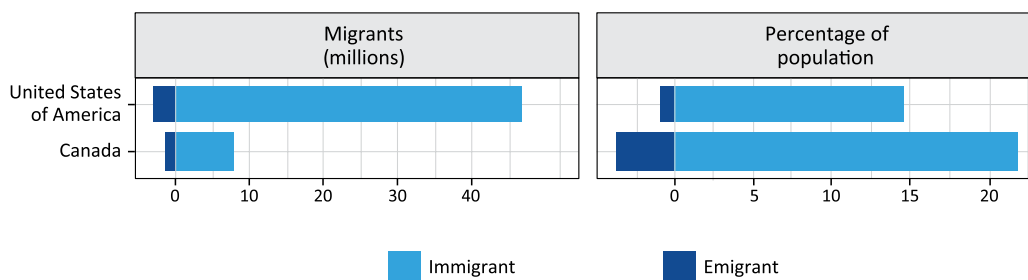
Note: "Migrants to Northern America" refers to migrants residing in the region (i.e. Northern America) who were born in one of the other regions (e.g. Europe or Asia). "Migrants within Northern America" refers to migrants born in the region (i.e. Northern America) and residing outside their country of birth, but still within the Northern American region. "Migrants from Northern America" refers to people born in Northern America who were residing outside the region (e.g. in Europe or Africa).

²⁴⁰ See appendix A for details on the composition of Northern America.

The number of Northern American migrants living within the region or elsewhere was relatively small compared with the foreign-born population in the region. In 2015, more Northern American-born migrants lived outside the region – principally in Latin America and the Caribbean (1.3 million) – than had moved elsewhere within the region (1.2 million).

In 2015, the United States had the largest foreign-born population in the world, while Canada had the seventh largest. Over 85 per cent of the foreign-born populations in the region lived in the United States, where they comprise over 14 per cent of the total population. As shown in figure 18, the share of Canada's total population that was foreign-born (at over 20%) was considerably higher than in the United States in 2015. Canada also had a larger share of its citizens who had emigrated (as a per cent of its total home population) compared with the United States.

Figure 18. Main migration countries in Northern America in 2015



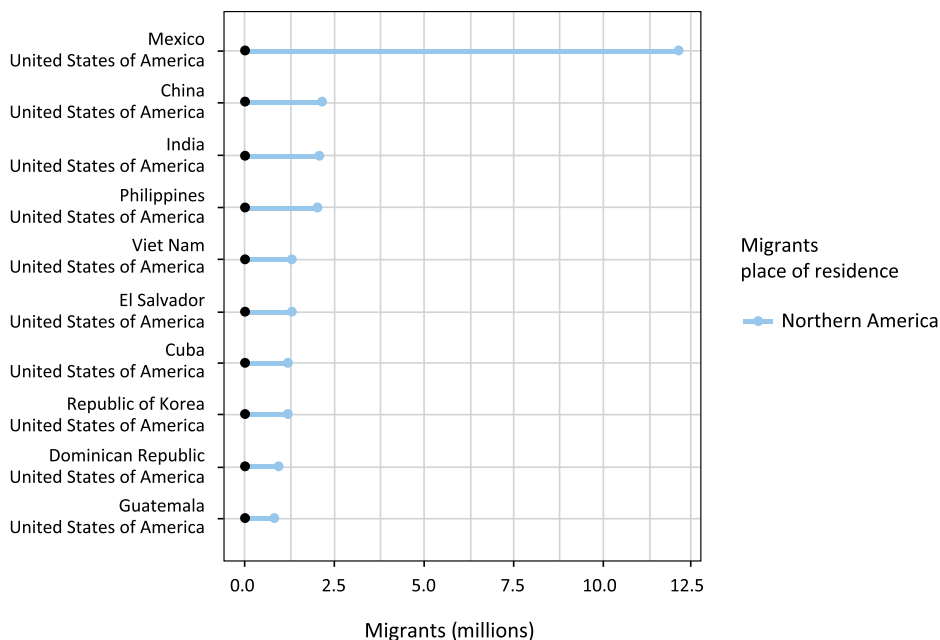
Source: UN DESA, 2015a.

Note 1: The population size used to calculate the percentage of immigrants and emigrants is based on the UN DESA total resident population of the country, which includes foreign-born populations.

Note 2: "Immigrant" refers to foreign-born migrants residing in the country. "Emigrant" refers to people born in the country who were residing outside their country of birth in 2015.

Figure 19 shows the top 10 migration corridors involving Northern American countries, representing an accumulation of migratory movements over time and providing a snapshot of how migration patterns have evolved into significant foreign-born populations in specific destination countries. The largest migrant corridors in Northern America all involve migrants either from Asia, or Latin America and the Caribbean, to the United States of America. Mexican-born migrants form the biggest migrant group, with over 12 million living in the United States in 2015. The next largest migrant groups come from populous Asian countries, including China, India and the Philippines. Some of the other large migrant groups from Viet Nam, the Republic of Korea and Cuba in the United States grew rapidly after conflicts or political changes in their countries many years ago.

Figure 19. Top 10 migration corridors involving Northern America countries

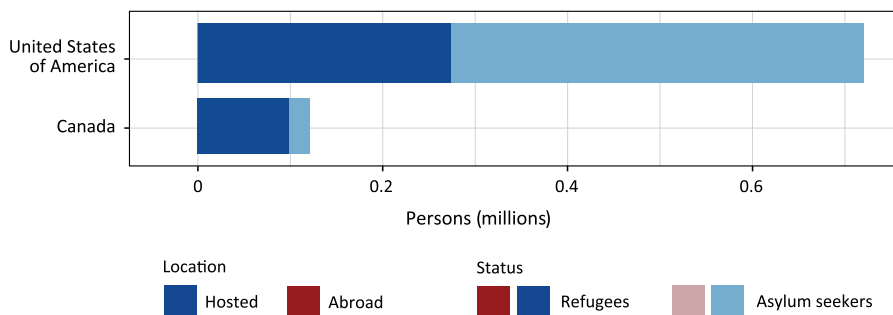


Source: UN DESA, 2015a.

Note: Corridors represent an accumulation of migratory movements over time and provide a snapshot of how migration patterns have evolved into significant foreign-born populations in specific destination countries.

The United States hosted over 700,000 refugees and asylum seekers in 2016. As apparent from figure 20, the majority were asylum seekers. Refugees in the United States came from a vast range of countries; however, the largest refugee populations were from China, Haiti, El Salvador, Guatemala, Egypt and Ethiopia. Canada is also host to a large refugee population. The largest origin countries are Colombia and China. Recent changes in refugee resettlement to the United States and Canada are discussed in the following *key features and developments* section.

Figure 20. Numbers of refugees and asylum seekers in and from Northern American countries, 2016



Source: UNHCR, n.d.a.

Note: "Hosted" refers to those refugees and asylum seekers from other countries who are residing in the receiving country (right-hand side of the figure); "abroad" refers to refugees and asylum seekers originating from that country who are outside of their origin country. Chapter 2 (appendix A) includes definitions of key terms such as "refugee".

*Key features and developments in Northern America*²⁴¹

- **Migration trends in the United States are characterized by high levels of immigration, primarily from Latin America and Asia, although the demography of international migrants is changing.** As of 2015, Mexican-born migrants were still by far the largest foreign-born population living in the United States, at just over 12 million.²⁴² However, fewer Mexicans were migrating to the United States compared with the past. In addition to economic barriers caused by the slow recovery of the United States economy following the 2008 global financial crisis,²⁴³ and immigration enforcement barriers in the United States, many Mexicans and their children are voluntarily choosing to return to Mexico.²⁴⁴ For example, between 2009 and 2014, 870,000 Mexicans migrated to the United States, while around one million Mexican immigrants and their children born in the United States moved from the United States to Mexico.²⁴⁵ Those Mexicans who returned to Mexico cited family reunification as the primary motive for return.²⁴⁶ In contrast, the number of Central Americans living in the United States increased tenfold between 1980 and 2015.²⁴⁷ After Mexico, migrants from Asian countries – particularly from China, India and the Philippines – comprised the largest foreign-born populations in the United States in 2015.²⁴⁸ China and India have now overtaken Mexico in terms of recent immigrant arrivals to the United States.²⁴⁹ This trend is expected to continue, and current estimates suggest that Asian immigrants will comprise the largest foreign-born group in the United States by 2055.²⁵⁰ The largest immigration pathway for Asians migrating to the United States is through family-sponsored visas,²⁵¹ although many are also students; in 2014–2015, Asian students accounted for 76 per cent of international students enrolled in United States higher education institutions.²⁵²
- **Migrant populations in Canada continue to increase, representing a growing percentage of the country's total population.** In 2000, foreign-born persons represented about 18 per cent of Canada's total population, increasing to 18.8 per cent in 2005, 20.5 per cent in 2010 and nearly 22 per cent in 2015.²⁵³ However, while migrant populations in Canada have originated primarily from European countries in the past, the composition of the country's foreign-born population has shifted to include large populations of migrants from Asian countries. For example, in 2000, the largest origin country of international migrants in Canada was the United Kingdom (610,000), followed by China (410,000), India and Italy. By 2015, both China and India had surpassed the United Kingdom as the largest origin country, with the Philippines newly featuring in the top five and Italy no longer featuring among the top five.²⁵⁴ Other Asian countries including Viet Nam and Pakistan also featured in the top 10

241 See appendix A for details on the composition of Northern America.

242 UN DESA, 2015a.

243 Gonzalez-Barrera, 2015.

244 Ibid.

245 Krogstad, 2016.

246 Gonzalez-Barrera, 2015.

247 Lesser and Batalova, 2017.

248 UN DESA, 2015a.

249 Zong and Batalova, 2016.

250 Ibid.

251 Malik, 2015.

252 Zong and Batalova, 2016.

253 UN DESA, 2015a; UN DESA, 2017.

254 UN DESA, 2015a.

largest populations within Canada's total 7.84 million total foreign-born population in 2015.²⁵⁵ In 2015, Canada admitted over 270,000 new permanent residents, representing the highest number since 2010.²⁵⁶

- **The estimated number of irregular migrants in the United States has remained relatively stable in recent years and is much larger when compared with Canada.** Overall, irregular migrants were estimated to comprise 3.4 per cent of the total United States population in 2015.²⁵⁷ Taking into account caveats and data limitations for measuring irregular migrant populations, as of 2016, the total preliminary estimated population of irregular migrants was 11.3 million, of whom half (around 5.6 million) were Mexicans.²⁵⁸ However, the number of undocumented Mexicans has been decreasing since 2009, while the number of Asian irregular migrants in the United States has increased over time, reaching an estimated 1.5 million in 2015.²⁵⁹ Overall, while undocumented migrants may enter the country unauthorized, a large number are visa overstayers who entered regularly. In fiscal year 2015, there were over 527,000 estimated instances of people who overstayed their visas in the United States.²⁶⁰ In Canada, a number of estimates have indicated that there are between 200,000 and 400,000 irregular migrants in the country.²⁶¹ An unspecified number of irregular migrants are rejected asylum seekers who have not departed.²⁶²
- **The United States and Canada have resettled record numbers of refugees, representing the two largest resettlement countries in the world.** In 2016, the United States resettled more refugees than any previous year since 2010 (nearly 85,000), the majority of whom originated from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (at over 16,000), followed by the Syrian Arab Republic, Myanmar, Iraq and Somalia.²⁶³ However, the number of refugees resettled to the United States is likely to decline from an expected 110,000 to 50,000 in 2017.²⁶⁴ Overall, Canada resettled nearly 47,000 refugees in 2016 – the largest number of refugees resettled in the country since 1980.²⁶⁵ Refugees resettled in Canada in 2015 and 2016 primarily originated from the Syrian Arab Republic, Iraq, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea and Myanmar.

Oceania²⁶⁶

In 2015, Oceania was the destination for nearly seven million migrants from outside the region. As shown in figure 21, the foreign-born migrant population was primarily composed of two large groups from Asia (38%) and Europe (37%). Throughout the last 25 years, the Asian migrant group has grown, while the number from Europe has remained steady. Migrants from Oceania were more likely to end up within the region than outside. Out of all of the six regions, Oceania had the lowest number of migrants outside its region in 2015, partly a reflection of the low total population size of the region, although there was a steady increase in their number during the previous 25-year period. Most of those born in Oceania living outside the region resided in Europe and Northern America.

255 UN DESA, 2015a.

256 Immigration, Refugees, and Citizenship Canada, 2016.

257 Krogstad, Passel and Cohn, 2017.

258 Ibid.

259 Passel and Cohn, 2017.

260 United States Department of Homeland Security, 2016.

261 Bertelsmann Stiftung and Migration Policy Institute, 2012.

262 Smick, 2006.

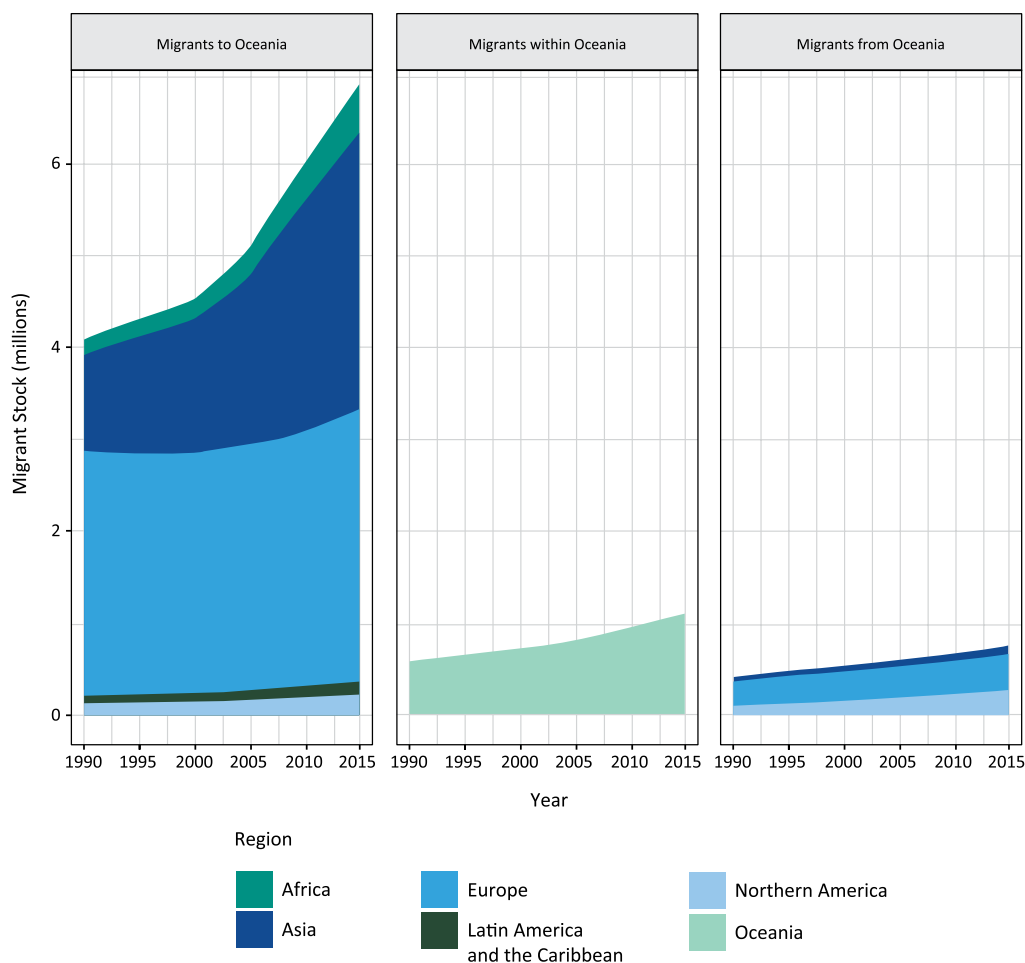
263 United States Department of State, 2016; Igielnik and Krogstad, 2017.

264 Krogstad and Radford, 2017.

265 UNHCR, 2017c.

266 See appendix A for details on the composition of Oceania.

Figure 21. Migrants to, within and from Oceania in 2015

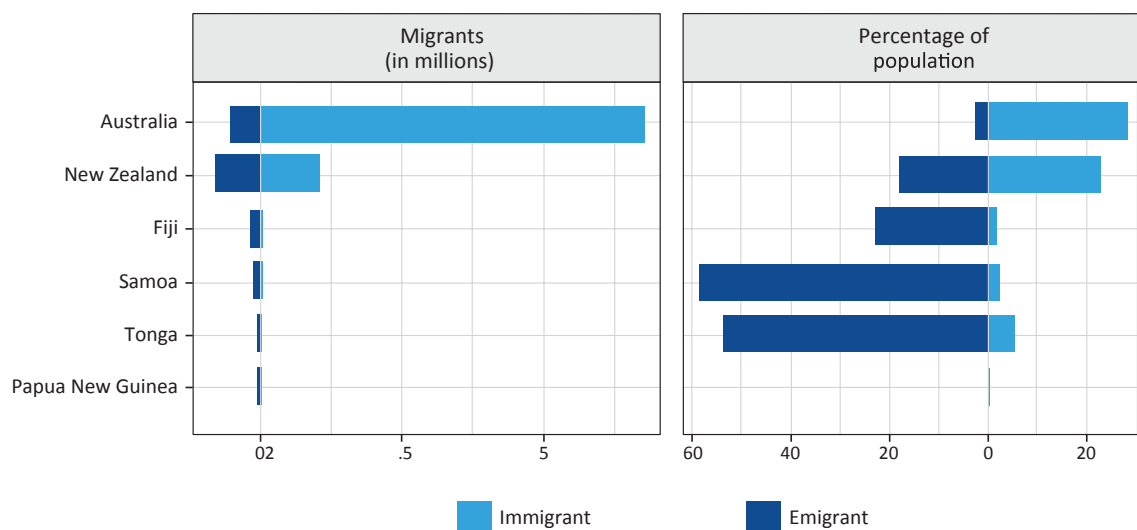


Source: UN DESA, 2015a.

Note: "Migrants to Oceania" refers to migrants residing in the region (i.e. Oceania) who were born in one of the other regions (e.g. Europe or Asia). "Migrants within Oceania" refers to migrants born in the region (i.e. Oceania) and residing outside their country of birth, but still within the Oceania region. "Migrants from Oceania" refers to people born in Oceania who were residing outside the region (e.g. in Europe or Asia).

The vast majority of migrants in Oceania were living in either Australia or New Zealand (figure 22). Most countries in the region have skewed migration profiles, being either large net senders or net receivers. For example, Tonga, Samoa and Fiji all have high counts of emigrants in comparison with their native population and very low shares of foreign-born populations. Their emigrants were located primarily in New Zealand and to a lesser extent in Australia. Australia and New Zealand have high shares of foreign-born populations as a portion of total population, comprising over 28 per cent and 23 per cent respectively.

Figure 22. Oceania migrant countries in 2015



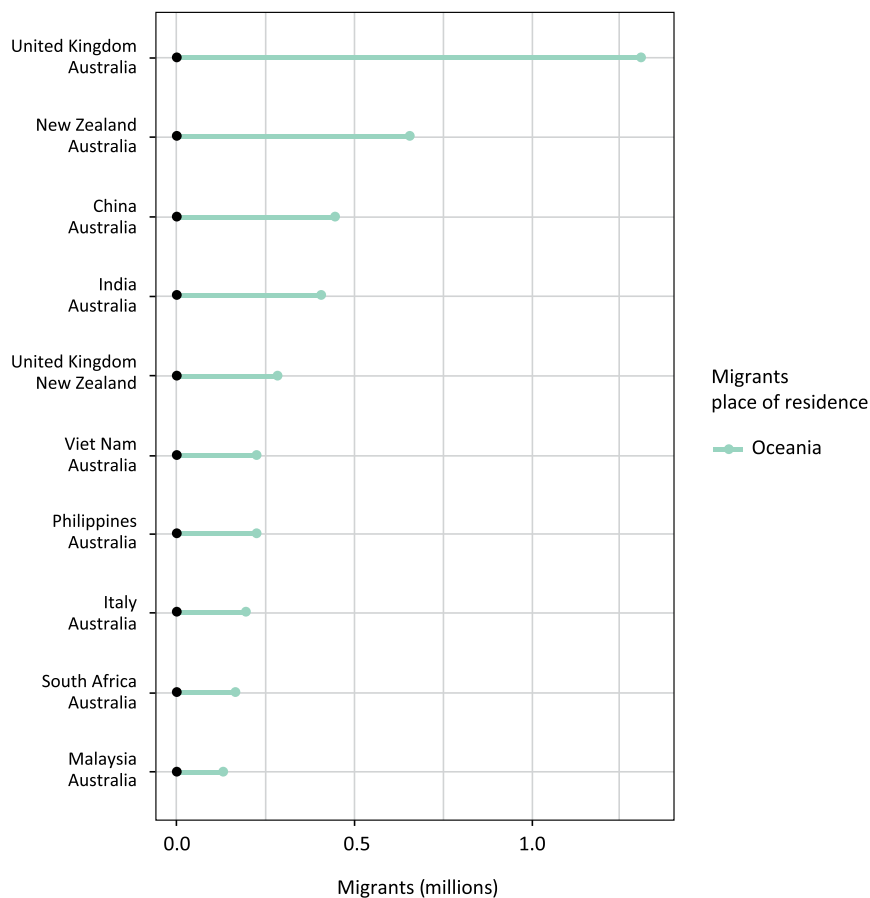
Source: UN DESA, 2015a.

Note 1: The population size used to calculate the percentage of immigrants and emigrants is based on the UN DESA total resident population of the country, which includes foreign-born populations.

Note 2: "Immigrant" refers to foreign-born migrants residing in the country. "Emigrant" refers to people born in the country who were residing outside their country of birth in 2015.

Figure 23 shows the top 10 migration corridors involving Oceania countries, showing an accumulation of migratory movements over time, and providing a snapshot of how migration patterns have evolved into significant foreign-born populations in specific destination countries. The top 10 migration corridors in the region were all to Australia, with the largest being of migrants born in the United Kingdom. All the largest migrant corridors in the region were based on populations moving to Australia. These include a variety of countries from outside Oceania, including China, India, Viet Nam and the Philippines, many of which have experienced rapid growth over recent decades. New Zealand had high shares of migrants abroad, predominantly in Australia, and many international migrants residing within the country.

Figure 23. Top 10 migration corridors involving Oceania countries

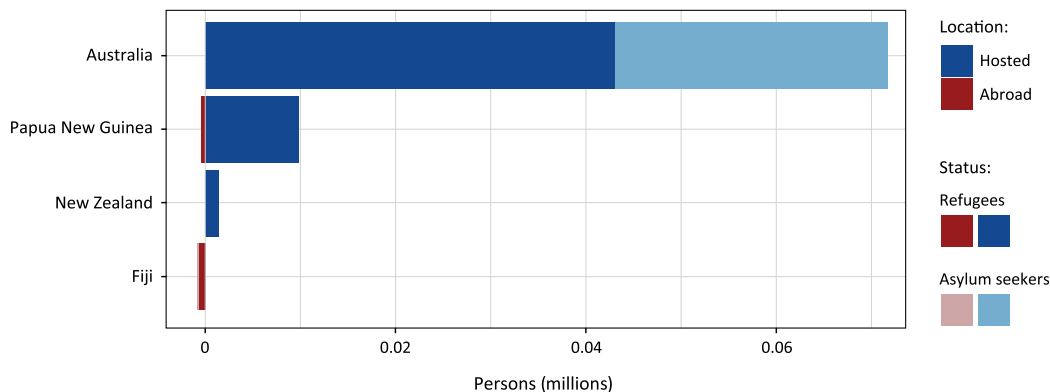


Source: UN DESA, 2015a.

Note: Corridors represent an accumulation of migratory movements over time and provide a snapshot of how migration patterns have evolved into significant foreign-born populations in specific destination countries.

In 2016 Oceania hosted under 100,000 refugees and asylum seekers. Australia was the largest host country in this region, followed by Papua New Guinea and New Zealand. Most of the refugees in these countries originated from Asia, such as Indonesians in Papua New Guinea or Afghans and Iranians in Australia. Globally, there were just over 2,000 refugees and asylum seekers from countries in the Oceania region in 2016.

Figure 24. Numbers of refugees and asylum seekers in and from Oceania countries, 2016



Source: UNHCR, n.d.a.

Note: "Hosted" refers to those refugees and asylum seekers from other countries who are residing in the receiving country (right-hand side of the figure); "abroad" refers to refugees and asylum seekers originating from that country who are outside of their origin country. Chapter 2 (appendix A) includes definitions of key terms such as "refugee". The top 10 countries are based on 2016 data and are calculated by combining refugees and asylum seekers in and from countries.

Key features and developments in Oceania

- Migrant populations in both New Zealand and Australia have continued to increase.** In 2015–2016, New Zealand experienced a net migration increase of 19 per cent over the previous year,²⁶⁷ while Australia, experienced a 3 per cent increase in 2015–2016 over the previous year.²⁶⁸ Between 2000 and 2015, the United Kingdom continued to be the largest origin country of international migrants living in Australia at nearly 1.3 million in 2015, followed by migrants from New Zealand (around 640,000 in 2015).²⁶⁹ A majority of the other top origin countries of migrants in Australia in 2015 were Asian, including China, India, Viet Nam and the Philippines.²⁷⁰ By the end of June 2016, over 28 per cent of Australia's total population was foreign born.²⁷¹ The United Kingdom has consistently been the main origin country of migrants in New Zealand for decades, with a notable increase in the number of Asian migrants, particularly from China and India, as well as a considerable population of people from the Pacific Islands, including Fiji, Samoa and Tonga.²⁷² In 2015, New Zealand's foreign-born population constituted nearly 23 per cent of the country's total population.²⁷³ In both Australia and New Zealand, there are a significant number of temporary workers, with almost 200,000 people granted a work visa in New Zealand in 2015–2016.²⁷⁴ The largest origin country

267 New Zealand Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, 2016.

268 Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2017a; UN DESA, 2015a.

269 UN DESA, 2015a.

270 Ibid.

271 Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2017b.

272 UN DESA, 2015a.

273 Ibid.

274 New Zealand Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, 2016.

of temporary migrant workers in New Zealand was India in 2015–2016, followed by the United Kingdom.²⁷⁵ In Australia, there were under 100,000 primary holders of temporary work visas as of 31 March 2017.²⁷⁶ Both countries also attract a large number of international students. The number of international students has increased since 2012 in Australia, reaching a record high of over 700,000 in 2016,²⁷⁷ while there were over 100,000 international students in New Zealand in 2015, primarily from China, India and Japan.²⁷⁸

- **Intraregional migration in Oceania is a prominent and continuing trend.** Historically, large numbers of people have migrated between New Zealand and Australia (mostly from New Zealand to Australia), assisted by movement agreements between the two countries. However, the number of New Zealanders returning to New Zealand from Australia increased substantially between 2014 and 2016, with a net gain in the number of Australians in New Zealand as well.²⁷⁹ Intraregional migration of Pacific Islanders to both Australia and New Zealand is also prominent, as discussed in further detail below.
- **Both Australia and New Zealand participate in refugee resettlement.** Australia's refugee resettlement programme is the third largest in the world.²⁸⁰ The country offered a minimum of almost 14,000 places for refugees in 2015–2016.²⁸¹ An additional 12,000 humanitarian places have been made available in Australia for people displaced by conflicts in the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq.²⁸² In addition, Australia resettles refugees who have been living in neighbouring countries (e.g. Malaysia and Indonesia) who originate from other countries, such as Myanmar and Afghanistan. Australia's policy is to transfer those who arrive irregularly as asylum seekers to offshore processing centres on Manus Island in Papua New Guinea and in Nauru. In July 2013, Australia also announced that all persons arriving by boat would not be resettled to Australia.²⁸³ New Zealand is also a refugee resettlement country, announcing the resettlement of 750 Syrian refugees in 2015–2016. International/Humanitarian Stream approvals in New Zealand also come from the Pacific, constituting 1,600 people approved for residence in 2015–2016.²⁸⁴
- **Economic and environmental challenges influence emigration from Pacific Island countries.** The total number of Pacific-born migrants living in OECD countries is now 420,000, most of whom come from Fiji, Samoa and Tonga.²⁸⁵ Development challenges and a so-called "youth bulge" throughout the Pacific Islands have introduced significant employment shortages, leading to high degrees of labour emigration, particularly to New Zealand, as well as to Australia and other countries.²⁸⁶ Almost 12,000 people from the Pacific arrive in Australia and New Zealand each year through seasonal work programmes.²⁸⁷ Environmental change and degradation are also among the array of factors influencing many Pacific Islanders to migrate, with half of the population in Kiribati and Tuvalu in particular living in overcrowded urban areas on atolls

275 New Zealand Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, 2016.

276 Australian DIBP, 2017.

277 Australian Department of Education and Training, 2016.

278 Infometrics and National Research Bureau, 2016.

279 Stats New Zealand, 2016.

280 UNHCR, 2016a.

281 Australian DIBP, 2016.

282 Ibid.

283 Refugee Council of Australia, 2017.

284 New Zealand Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, 2016.

285 Curtain et al., 2016.

286 Ibid.

287 Ibid.

of narrow strips of coral with limited access to water and land.²⁸⁸ Incremental sea level rise, saltwater intrusion and drought are important factors among others impacting people's decision to migrate in the region, both internally and internationally.²⁸⁹ In this context, there is also growing discussion around the need for planned relocation of groups and communities.²⁹⁰

Conclusion

There is a tendency in public policy debates to generalize about the characteristics of global migration, its impacts on national economies and societies, and the ensuing policy challenges across different countries and regions of the world. Indeed, as chapter 2 of this report shows, there are important global trends and patterns in migration. There are also clearly some similarities across countries in terms of the economic, social and cultural effects of migrants on the domestic population, as well as the fundamental challenges migration raises for public policymakers. Considering these similarities and commonalities in the characteristics and impacts of international migration is of fundamental importance to global and national policy debates and policymaking. A key message of this chapter is that it is equally important, however, to pay attention to regional dimensions and variations in international migration and displacement that can have critical implications for debates and regulation, especially (but not only) at global and supranational levels.

This chapter has drawn on a wide range of data and information to provide regional overviews of international migration and mobility around the world. The chapter focused on six broad world regions (Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Northern America and Oceania) and provided discussion of key issues and developments in multiple subregions within each of the broader regions. The discussion was necessarily limited and selective in its approach, aiming to highlight key features rather than to provide a comprehensive overview of international migration and mobility in each subregion. As chapter 2 on "global trends and patterns" shows, there are important gaps in data and information about global migrant stocks and migration flows. As this chapter has shown, the same caveat applies to the analysis of regional migration trends and patterns. In addition, there are large variations in the quantity and quality of data and research on migrants across different regions of the world. These geographic asymmetries in the availability and quality of data and research on migrants should be a key issue of concern for global and national policymakers.

Overall, the chapter points to important differences across regions and subregions, as well as growing complexities in migration dynamics around the world. To give a basic example of regional differences, migration in Asia has been predominantly intraregional (i.e. from one Asian country to another) which far exceeds migration to other regions of the world (i.e. from Asian to non-Asian countries). In Africa, intraregional migration has always been and remains important, but the number of African migrants who have moved to other parts of the world (especially Europe, North America and the Middle East) is now roughly the same as the number of African migrants who have moved within the region. In contrast, in Latin America and the Caribbean, migration is dominated by emigration to other world regions, especially North America, with intraregional migration playing a relatively limited role.

²⁸⁸ Curtain et al., 2016.

²⁸⁹ UNESCAP, 2015.

²⁹⁰ See, for example, Georgetown University, n.d., for a range of resources on planned relocation.

A key aspect and illustration of the important, but often underappreciated complexity of migration dynamics in different regions of the world, is that a number of countries are simultaneously “producing” large numbers of refugees who flee to other countries as well as “hosting” sizable refugee populations from other countries. It is well known that many countries, such as Germany and the United Kingdom, experience large immigration and emigration flows, often driven by two-way flows of labour migrants, family migrants and students. It is perhaps less well known that, as shown in this chapter, this also applies to some countries in the specific case of refugees. Examples include Sudan, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Iraq.

These differences and complexities (some of which are specific to place and time, while others are relatively common across regions) raise important questions and challenges for policymaking. For example, fundamental differences in migration experiences and dynamics across regions clearly need to be considered when discussing desirable regimes for the global governance of international migration. Differences can also have implications for applying good practices and in ensuring that governance approaches are tailored to meet regional dimensions. Similarly, growing complexities in migration dynamics create direct challenges for national regulators and have important consequences for the most desirable forms of governance and cooperation across countries. Greater recognition of regional and subregional migration patterns, variations and complexities, would assist in formulating strategic and sustainable policy responses.

Appendix A

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs: Regions and Subregions

Please note that this table reflects the UN DESA geographic regions and subregions and does not imply official endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

AFRICA				
Eastern Africa ^a	Middle Africa ^b	Northern Africa ^c	Southern Africa ^d	Western Africa ^e
Burundi	Angola	Algeria	Botswana	Benin
Comoros	Cameroon	Egypt	Lesotho	Burkina Faso
Djibouti	Central African Republic	Libya	Namibia	Cabo Verde
Eritrea	Chad	Morocco	South Africa	Côte d'Ivoire
Ethiopia	Congo (the)	Sudan	Swaziland	Gambia (the)
Kenya	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Tunisia		Ghana
Madagascar	Equatorial Guinea			Guinea
Malawi	Gabon			Guinea-Bissau
Mauritius	São Tomé and Príncipe			Liberia
Mayotte				Mali
Mozambique				Mauritania
Réunion				Niger
Rwanda				Nigeria
Seychelles				Saint Helena
Somalia				Senegal
South Sudan				Sierra Leone
Uganda				Togo
United Republic of Tanzania				
Zambia				
Zimbabwe				

^a Eastern Africa has been combined with the Southern Africa subregion in the chapter, although the countries/territories/areas within remain the same.

^b This subregion has been renamed “Central Africa” in the chapter and combined with Western Africa.

^c This subregion renamed “North Africa”.

^d This subregion has been combined with Eastern Africa.

^e This subregion has been renamed “West Africa” and combined with Central Africa (UN DESA *Middle Africa*) in the chapter.

ASIA				
Central Asia	Eastern Asia	South-Eastern Asia ^f	Southern Asia	Western Asia ^g
Kazakhstan	China	Brunei	Afghanistan	Armenia
Kyrgyzstan	China, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region	Darussalam	Bangladesh	Azerbaijan
Tajikistan		Cambodia	Bhutan	Bahrain
Turkmenistan		Indonesia	India	Cyprus
Uzbekistan	China, Macao Special Administrative Region	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Georgia
		Malaysia	Maldives	Iraq
	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Myanmar	Nepal	Israel
	Japan	Philippines (the)	Pakistan	Jordan
	Mongolia	Singapore	Sri Lanka	Kuwait
	Republic of Korea	Thailand		Lebanon
		Timor-Leste		Oman
		Viet Nam		Qatar
				Saudi Arabia
				Syrian Arab Republic
				Turkey
				United Arab Emirates
				Yemen

^f This subregion renamed "South-East Asia".

^g This subregion renamed "Middle East".

EUROPE ^h			
Eastern Europe ⁱ	Northern Europe	Southern Europe	Western Europe
Belarus	Channel Islands	Albania	Austria
Bulgaria	Denmark	Andorra	Belgium
Czech Republic	Estonia	Bosnia and Herzegovina	France
Hungary	Faroe Islands	Croatia	Germany
Poland	Finland	Gibraltar	Liechtenstein
Republic of Moldova	Iceland	Greece	Luxembourg
Romania	Ireland	Holy See	Monaco
Russian Federation	Isle of Man	Italy	Netherlands (the)
Slovakia	Latvia	Malta	Switzerland
Ukraine	Lithuania	Montenegro	
	Norway	Portugal	
	Sweden	San Marino	
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Serbia	
		Slovenia	
		Spain	
		The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	

h Some countries in this subregion, particularly members of the European Union, may have been included both in the discussion of *South-Eastern* and *Eastern Europe*, as well as the subregional discussion on *Northern*, *Western*, and *Southern Europe* within the chapter.

i Northern, Western and Southern Europe are combined in the chapter, excluding the following countries in Southern Europe: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, which have been included in *South-East Europe* in the chapter, under the subregion *South-Eastern* and *Eastern Europe*.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN		
Caribbean	Central America ^j	South America
Anguilla	Belize	Argentina
Antigua and Barbuda	Costa Rica	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
Aruba	El Salvador	Brazil
Bahamas	Guatemala	Chile
Barbados	Honduras	Colombia
Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba	Mexico	Ecuador
British Virgin Islands	Nicaragua	Falkland Islands (Malvinas)
Cayman Islands	Panama	French Guiana
Cuba		Guyana
Curaçao		Paraguay
Dominica		Peru
Dominican Republic		Suriname
Grenada		Uruguay
Guadeloupe		Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Haiti		
Jamaica		
Martinique		
Montserrat		
Puerto Rico		
Saint Kitts and Nevis		
Saint Lucia		
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines		
Sint Maarten (Dutch part)		
Trinidad and Tobago		
Turks and Caicos Islands		
United States Virgin Islands		

^j The subregion “Central America” has been combined with Mexico and the Caribbean in this chapter.

NORTHERN AMERICA

Bermuda
Canada
Greenland
Saint Pierre and Miquelon
United States of America

OCEANIA

Australia and New Zealand	Melanesia	Micronesia	Polynesia
Australia New Zealand	Fiji New Caledonia Papua New Guinea Solomon Islands Vanuatu	Guam Kiribati Marshall Islands Micronesia (Federated States of) Nauru Northern Mariana Islands Palau	American Samoa Cook Islands French Polynesia Niue Samoa Tokelau Tonga Tuvalu Wallis and Futuna Islands

Legend:

Region
Subregion ⁱ
Country/territory/area ^{ii,iii}

Note: For methodology as well as explanatory notes, see *Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2015 Revision "CD-ROM Documentation"* available at www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/estimates2/docs/MigrationStockDocumentation_2015.pdf.

- i Subregions utilized within the chapter may differ from those utilized by UN DESA's Statistical Division either by name, or by countries/territories/areas included within.
- ii "The names of countries or areas refer to their short form used in day-to-day operations of the United Nations and not necessarily to their official name as used in formal documents. These names are based on the United Nations Terminology Database (UNTERM), which can be found at: <https://unterm.un.org/UNTERM/portal/welcome> The designations employed and the presentation of material at this site do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations [or the International Organization for Migration (IOM)] concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries." For further information, see <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49/>.
- iii The entities included in this table, from which the previous chapter draws upon, include countries, as well as territories, areas and special administrative regions. Please note that this table is not intended to be fully comprehensive.

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International Organization for Migration (IOM)

The UN Migration Agency

17 route des Morillons, P.O. Box 17, 1211 Geneva 19, Switzerland

Tel.: +41 22 717 9111 • Fax: +41 22 798 6150

E-mail: hq@iom.int • Website: www.iom.int